

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Will Hopkins 207 853-6607

October 7, 2008

Rockweed Harvest and Scallops Focus of Cobscook Fisheries Forum

Eastport - - Rockweed harvest and protecting the last good scallop grounds in Maine will be the topics discussed at a Cobscook Fisheries Forum organized by the Cobscook Bay Resource Center on **Saturday, October 18** from **9:30-3:30** at the **Boat School** on Deep Cove Road in **Eastport**.

Rockweed harvest in Cobscook Bay has generated concern about the sustainability of the harvest, the impacts of harvest on other important species in the Bay, the rights and wishes of upland landowners, and a number of other issues. The morning session of the forum, from 9:30 to noon, will provide an opportunity for people to address these issues. A facilitated discussion will consider whether there are any changes to management practices or to State of Maine statutes and regulations that might resolve or reduce concerns with rockweed harvest in the Bay.

Cobscook Bay has the last good scallop grounds in Maine because Cobscook fishermen have worked hard over the last ten years to protect them. The scallop resource in the rest of the state has collapsed, triggering an initiative by the Maine Legislature to “develop a comprehensive strategic plan that will rebuild Maine’s scallop resource and create a sustainable scallop fishery.” The afternoon session of the forum, from 12:45 to 3:30, will consider what the Cobscook Bay portion of that plan might look like and how it might be implemented.

To encourage a safe, civil and productive discussion the forum will be guided by the meeting rules of the Cobscook Bay Fishermen's Association:

- Everyone will have a chance to speak.
- Only one person will speak at a time, and
- We won’t make it personal.

A light lunch will be available (donations accepted).

All are welcome. For more information please contact the Cobscook Bay Resource Center at 853-6607 or visit www.cobscook.org

- - END - -

The mission of the Cobscook Bay Resource Center is to encourage and strengthen community-based approaches to resource management and sustainable economic development in the Cobscook Bay region, the Bay of Fundy, and the Gulf of Maine.

Mailing Address: 4 Favor Street, Eastport, Maine 04631

Website:

www.cobscook.org

Phone: (207) 853-6607

Fax: (207) 853-0688

Email: cobscook@verizon.net