

Friends of Casco Bay
How We Work

The “Work With” Approach

November 2013

Our Baykeeping Program works to protect Casco Bay through science-based advocacy, collaborative partnerships, and public education and outreach. Our advocacy efforts are community-oriented in that we use a “work with” approach to solving environmental problems. Rather than being adversarial, we prefer to collaborate with community members, local businesses, and decision makers, to find solutions that are both environmentally sound and economically viable.

To maintain the credibility of our program, our positions are data-driven and based on solid science, much of it gathered through our award-winning Water Quality Monitoring Program as well as other monitoring efforts, such as sediment pH. We have found that this collaborative, science-based approach works. We have reduced pollution into the Bay, while building trust and credibility in our community.

More recently, on some issues we have sought expert legal opinions to supplement our science-based advocacy work. This approach helps us maintain and deepen the credibility of our position, well in advance of resorting to more adversarial routes to address a pollution situation. Often, well-crafted scientific and legal arguments are sufficient to inspire a shift in the proper direction, and we can then continue to “work with” and watchdog the offending party. Going to the press and going to the courts are always options but ones we threaten or employ only when the “work with” efforts have been exhausted.

Periodically, we find that the introduction of legislation is key to protecting the health of Casco Bay. This requires a concerted effort to work with legislators and supporters to educate and advocate for better laws that will protect this resource.

Executive Director Cathy L Ramsdell, CPA, CGMA