

# Maine Technology Asset Fund Project Summary

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**AWARDEE:** Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education, Beals

**MTAF PROJECT TITLE:** Investing in Downeast Maine's Marine Resource-based Economy

**AWARD AMOUNT:** \$1,059,900                      **MATCH:** \$1,372,852

**PROJECT DIRECTOR:** Brian Beal

**COLLABORATORS:** University of Maine, Machias; Maine Seafood Alliance, Cherryfield; Maine Clammer's Association, Freeport; Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, Orono; Downeast Resource Conservation and Development, Cherryfield



***The new Marine Education Center at the Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research & Education*** This is a state-of-the-art classroom with running seawater, aeration, drop-down power cords, running hot and cold fresh water, microscopes, movable benches to create areas for hands-on experimentation and observation, and floor grates that allow seawater to exit from aquaria back to the ocean.

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## PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Downeast Institute (DEI) improves the quality of life for the people of downeast and coastal Maine through applied marine research, technology transfer, and public marine resource education. DEI is using its MTAF award to renovate its working pier and maintain its two commercial-size lobster impoundments; purchase equipment for its maricultural work with communities and shellfish farmers along the Maine coast, and for applied research on commercially important shellfish; improve infrastructure that has resulted in a new Marine Education Center/Classroom; and plan for future infrastructure improvements that will create the easternmost marine research laboratory along the U.S. east coast. These assets will enable DEI to work more closely and productively with the local seafood industry.

Working with UMaine Machias and even at the high school level, DEI gives students hands-on experience that inspires them to pursue advanced training toward stronger career prospects. Lynn Alley, a high school science teacher from nearby Jonesport-Beals High School, said, "This is a really important step that will build stronger ties between DEI and the local schools, and give our students new and interesting ways to learn about marine science and technology in our own backyard."

DEI has contracted the services of Sealander Associates (Ellsworth) to help with planning for the Education Center and the marine research laboratory. They are using fiber composites made in Brunswick (Harbor Technologies) to renovate our pier, and have contracted the services of DeLong Marine (Brewer) to construct the pier. Much of the contract work for the Education Center was conducted by firms and companies in eastern Maine.

DEI's goal is to create new economic opportunities in downeast Maine through innovation, education, applied research, and outreach. MTAF funds have strengthened DEI's ability to achieve these goals.