07/09/2015 Environment

THE PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE AND THE AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS WILL SHARE MORE THAN $200,000 TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES.

THE GRANT WAS AWARDED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND WILL SUPPORT PROJECTS AIMED AT HELPING MAINE'S TRIBES PLAN, TRAIN AND PARTICIPATE IN FORUMS TO ADDRESS THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

SENATORS SUSAN COLLINS AND ANGUS KING SAY THE GRANT WILL COORDINATE EFFORTS BETWEEN THE TRIBE AND REGIONAL PARTNERS.

IT IS MEANT TO INCORPORATE TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS INTO THE PROCESS OF CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING.

07/09/2015 Environment

KRISTIN

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE NORTHEAST ARE CHALLENGING ACADIA NATIONAL PARK TO GO WATER BOTTLE FREE.

VO

IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, THE "THINK OUTSIDE THE BOTTLE" CAMPAIGN HAS ENCOURAGED NATIONAL PARKS, UNIVERSITIES, AND GOVERNMENTS TO DITCH THE SALE OF PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES.

MORE THAN 75 NATIONAL PARKS HAVE ALREADY ADOPTED THIS POLICY IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WATER.

THE STUDENTS WILL GATHER IN BAR HARBOR ON FRIDAY MORNING FOR A DEMONSTRATION AND TO PRESENT PETITIONS TO THE PARK SUPERINTENDENT.

SOTTIME CUE:/16/

WE'RE ORGANIZING RIGHT NOW IN ACADIA, BECAUSE IT'S, YOU KNOW, A REALLY IMPORTANT PARK IN THE NORTHEAST. IT'S LIKE THE PARK IN THE NORTHEAST. AND SO, WHAT'S HAPPENING IS WHEN, YOU KNOW, THESE STAND OUT PARKS GO BOTTLED WATER FREE OFTEN A LOT OF OTHER SMALLER PARKS IN THE AREA DO AS WELL. SO THAT'S WHY WE FOCUS ON THESE BIGGER PARKS.

SUPER:/ SAM HANSON

NATIONAL WATER INTERN/

VO

THE CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES THE PARKS TO SELL REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES AND USE BOTTLE REFILL STATIONS INSTEAD.

NEARLY 40 LOCAL BUSINESSES HAVE ALREADY PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE CAUSE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TREND, VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOX BANGOR DOT COM.

SUPER:/STUDENTS CALL ON ACADIA TO GO BOTTLED WATER FREE

CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES USE OF REFILL STATIONS

BAR HARBOR/

Rich Text Editor, body

08/07/2015 Environment

CRAIG

JELLYFISH ARE SHOWING UP IN LARGE NUMBERS ALONG MAINE COAST THIS SUMMER.

FVO

THIS WAS THE CASE LAST SUMMER AS WELL.

MARINE SCIENTISTS ARE NOW ASKING FOR THE PUBLIC'S HELP IN KEEPING TRACK OF WHERE THEY APPEAR.

Nick Record, an ecologist at Bigelow Laboratoryfor Ocean Sciences in Boothbay, said the jellyfish are not yet appearing in concentrations large enough in Maine to cause alarm — as they have in Europe in recent years — but the visible increase in the Gulf of Maine is worth tracking.

"Jellyfish are appearing [in Maine] in unusually large numbers," Record said. "There's a whole mix of hypotheses out there [about the cause]. It's hard to say what is going on in Maine."

Record said he has received between 100 and 200 reports from the public this summer about jellyfish sightings in Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. Some people have emailed him photos while others have posted photos on Twitter with the hashtag #mainejellies.

"It's amazing how much knowledge there is [among residents] up and down the coast," Record said. "But there really is a lot we don't know."

Record said this summer's research is an attempt to compile data on sightings for use in a potential, future scientific study about jellyfish in the Gulf of Maine.

The Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland and the Island Institute in Rockland are partnering with Bigelow Lab in the crowdsourcing data-gathering effort, he said.

What's the cause?

There are several theories floating around about why the numbers of jellyfish appear to fluctuate. Some have tied the phenomenon to climate change while others posit it simply is part of a natural 20- to 30-year cycle.

There also is a "jelly ocean" hypothesis, Record said, which suggests the changing ocean environment leads to more frequent jellyfish blooms.

Higher volumes of fertilizer runoff from shore has contributed to decreased oxygen levels in the ocean, he said, and jellies tend to fare better in low oxygen conditions than other marine organisms. Warmer temperatures, overfishing of predators and even human disturbance of the ocean floor all have been raised as possible factors in the apparent rise in jellyfish abundance.

"That is something scientists are debating," Record said.

ellyfish, often called "jellies," are not actually fish. They are gelatinous creatures that, according to the National cience Foundation, reproduce sexually and asexually, depending on their life-cycle stage. Jellyfish h ility to reproduce very quickly, which sometimes results in "blooms" that gam

In Europe, a bloom killed more than 100,000 farmed salmon off Northern Ireland in 2007 and another last year off Scotland that killed 300,000 salmon at another aquaculture site. According to media reports, farmed fish can die from a lack of oxygen after masses of jellyfish cut off water flow into their pens or from stings from jellyfish that are small enough to slip through the netted mesh.

In 2013, a jellyfish bloom off the Swedish coast shut down a Swedish nuclear power plant when the creatures blocked the cooling water inlet, preventing water from getting inside the reactor for two days. There have been news reports of similar incidents in recent years at power plants in Israel, California, Scotland and Japan.

Record said there have been reports this summer of large numbers of white-cross jellies appearing in the Bay of Fundy, leading to clogged stationary fishing weirs in New Brunswick.

"It's basically a jellyfish filter sitting in the water," Record said of such weirs, which are much more common along the coast of Atlantic Canada than in Maine.

Species of jellies appearing in Maine include white-cross, which have a white X-shaped cross on the clear round tops of their bodies, and moon jellies, which have four small white circles. White-cross and moon jellies grow to roughly the size of a small dinner plate and can have blooms of 1,000 individuals or more.

Another type frequently seen here, though in lesser numbers, is the lion's mane jellyfish, which are larger and have a darker hue and more potent stinging tentacles, Record said.

Sea combs — colonial organisms similar to jellyfish that, according to Record, resemble peeled grapes — also are common in Maine. The most poisonous kind of jellies, box jellyfish or Portuguese man o' war — another type of colonial organism — inhabit warmer waters and have not been reported in Maine, he said.

White-cross or moon jellies may cause only mild skin irritation when touched, but they can cause inconveniences in other ways. Record cited reports in the Boothbay area of fishermen hauling up several white-cross jellies in their traps, he said, which need to be cleared from their gear. Some fishermen have indicated it is a nuisance, he added, while others have said it is less time-consuming than removing seaweed from their lines and traps.

Zoe Weil of Surry is one of the citizens who has contributed to the crowdsourcing effort.

"I regularly go paddleboarding and walk along the shore," she told Record in an email. "From the end of May through now, there have been more Lion's Mane jellies than I've ever seen in my 18 years living here. In one hour of paddleboarding, I've seen as many as 50 Lion's Mane, and currently, there are dozens washed up on the shore."

While paddleboarding in July off Lubec, Weil saw "at least a hundred" comb jellies and salps 50 white-cross jellies, with perhaps 20 moon jellies, she added.

Record said anyone who wants to submit their photos of jellyfish in Maine can send them via email, along with the time and location the photo was taken, tojellyfish@bigelow.org. They also can post them with the same information on Twitter, either by sending them to his account at @SeascapeScience or by using the #mainejellies hashtag.

The information will be compiled in a database that, Record hopes, will generate interest in conducting a scientific jellyfish survey in Maine. Even if it takes a long time to raise the funding for such a survey, he said, the database hopefully would prove useful to marine scientists who one day have the resources to conduct a

formal inquiry.

Record said that, to this point, there has not been enough funding available to conduct scientific surveys of jellyfish abundance in Maine or sea sampling that might indicate where they are being hatched. Such studies, depending on how thorough they are, could cost up to half a million dollars per year, he added.

"But I think even with a sustained citizen reporting system, we can get some really good information," he said.

JACLYN 08/08/2015 Environment

ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY THE MAINE CENTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST REPORTING -

The Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting says a federal program aimed at keeping children in Maine and across the country from being exposed to lead paint is "barely enforced."

The administrator for the program in the Environmental Protection Agency's regional office said she doesn't have enough resources to enforce the law. Data indicates the EPA has pursued only three enforcement actions for violations in Maine since 2010.

The rule requires contractors to be trained and to follow practices to prevent the spread of lead particles during home renovations. It supplements laws requiring landlords to protect tenants.

Dr. David Bellinger, a Harvard environmental epidemiologist, says lead poisoning is the "number one health hazard for children." Maine data shows 79 children were diagnosed with lead poisoning in 2013.

08/10/2015 Environment

LAURA

CONSERVATIONISTS SAY THEY'RE HAPPY WITH SOME OF THE RESULTS THEY'RE SEEING IN PROJECTS TO KEEP PHOSPHORUS OUT OF LAKES IN HARRISON.

VO

CURTAIN-LIKE BARRIERS WERE BUILT TO KEEP PHOSPHORUS OUT OF CRYSTAL AND LONG LAKES.

THE 600 FOOT LONG FILTERS WERE BUILT THANKS TO A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE.. THE LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION... AND MACKWORTH-ENVIRO.