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Casco Bay Curriculum: A Changing Estuary

- What is an estuary and how has it changed over time?
- How is climate change impacting us locally in Casco Bay and the Gulf of Maine?

Section 1. What is an estuary?

1. Where is the Gulf of Maine?
2. Where is Casco Bay?
3. Mystery solutions (salinity variation in an estuary)
4. Attitudes then and now
5. What is an estuary good for?
6. Dirty history of Portland Harbor
7. A conversation about *The Secret Bay* (literacy connection)

Section 2. What lives in Casco Bay?

1. Lobsters
2. Clams vs. green crabs (*Attack of the Green Crabs*)
3. Eelgrass: Nursery of the sea
4. *City Fish or Country Fish?* (literacy connection)

Section 3. How are we affected by climate change in Maine?

1. Brainstorming about climate change
2. Rising sea level: *King Tides*
3. Fractured food web: *Winners and Losers in the Gulf of Maine*
4. Acid ocean
5. Think like a scientist/A conversation about *Sea Secrets* and *Ocean Detectives* (literacy connection)

Section 4. What can you do?

1. You can make a difference
2. Storm drain stenciling
3. Sleuth out pollution
4. So you think you know Casco Bay (review)

Section 5. Background readings (literacy connection)