

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii) - Recreation and Land Use

(viii) Recreation and land use. A description of the existing recreational and land uses and opportunities within the project boundary. The components of this description include:

8.1.3.1.3 Half Moon Cove of Cobscook Bay

A segment of the LNG Transfer System will cross Half Moon Cove (also known as Frost Cove and Bar Harbor) within the greater Cobscook Bay. A small segment of approximately 700 feet will be located on submerged lands, which begin at low water on Split Rock, and extend westerly and then southwesterly across Half Moon Cove to low water on the western shore of Half Moon Cove.

Historically, Half Moon Cove was associated with the Western Passage as water could flow between Split Rock and Carlow Island, but with the development of the Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project in the 1930s, a causeway was constructed between Pleasant Point, Spilt Rock, Carlow Island, and Quoddy in order to force water in and out of a narrow passage between Quoddy and the mainland. Therefore, all water entering and exiting Half Moon Cove now passes through Cobscook Bay which lies along the western boundary of the Western Passage, and extends westward into Washington County, Maine. Cobscook Bay opens into the Bay of Fundy through a narrow opening at Friar Roads which lies immediately south of Eastport and north of Lubec, Maine. Cobscook Bay is further artificially subdivided into three sub-regions: the Inner, Outer, and Central regions based on general shape and circulation patterns.

At high tide, Half Moon Cove consists of a sheltered bay and is used occasionally for recreation in small boats. At low tide, it consists of extensive tidal mud flats with a narrow shallow channel running down the center. The submerged lands in Half Moon Cove are used seasonally for scallop dragging. The mud flats are used seasonally for commercial and recreational clam and marine worm harvesting.

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Resource Report 8 –
Land Use, Recreation, and Aesthetics

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(A): Existing Recreational Facilities

(A) Text description illustrated by maps of existing recreational facilities, type of activity supported, location, capacity, ownership and management;

The area around Half-Moon Cove does not include any existing recreational facilities which would be impacted by the proposed tidal power project. Provisions will be made for recreational boat traffic through the placement of boat ramps on both sides of the dam at an acceptable distance to ensure safe passage. An exclusion zone around both discharge points will be established to protect boat traffic from turbulent waters. Figure HMC-24 in the previous section provides a delineation of land use around the project area. At this point of time, the impact on recreational shellfish harvesting is not considered significant due the mode of operation selected for the project which will result in a 2-3' rise in elevation for the low water mark.

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(B): Current Recreational Use

(B) Current recreational use of project lands and waters compared to facility or resource capacity;

Tidewalker Associates does not expect to expand recreational facilities beyond present use. The availability of boat ramps might actually improve passage during low tide conditions and maximum tidal current conditions due to the removal of this obstacle to safe boat passage.

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(C): Existing Shoreline Buffer

(C) Existing shoreline buffer zones within the project boundary;

n/a

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(D): Future Recreational Needs

(D) Current and future recreation needs identified in current State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans, other applicable plans on file with the Commission, or other relevant local, state, or regional conservation and recreation plans;

n/a

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(E): Existing License Provision

(E) If the potential applicant is an existing licensee, its current shoreline management plan or policy, if any, with regard to permitting development of piers, boat docks and landings, bulkheads, and other shoreline facilities on project lands and waters;

n/a

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(F): National Wild & Scenic System

(F) A discussion of whether the project is located within or adjacent to a:
(1) River segment that is designated as part of, or under study for inclusion in, the National Wild and Scenic River System; or
(2) State-protected river segment;

The tidal and stream waters of Half-Moon Cove are not located in river segments designated as part of, or under study for inclusion in, the National Wild and Scenic River System nor in State of Maine protected river segments.

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(G): National Trails System

(G) Whether any project lands are under study for inclusion in the National Trails System or designated as, or under study for inclusion as, a Wilderness Area.

Half-Moon Cove and the surrounding area is not presently being considered for inclusion in the National Trails System or under study for inclusion as a Wilderness area.

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(H): Important Recreation Area

(H) Any regionally or nationally important recreation areas in the project vicinity?

No

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(I): Non-Recreational Land Use

(I) Non-recreational land use and management within the project boundary?

No

§ 5.6 (d)(3)(viii)(J): Adjacent Recreational and Non-Recreational
Land Use

(J) Recreational and non-recreational land use and management adjacent to the project boundary.

The project area for the Half-Moon Cove project does not contain any provisions for recreational and non-recreational land use including management objectives. The only possible exception refers to the potential for Tree Growth or Open Space management under State of Maine guidance; however, these designations would not be impacted by the proposed Half-Moon Cove project.