



## YORK RIVER

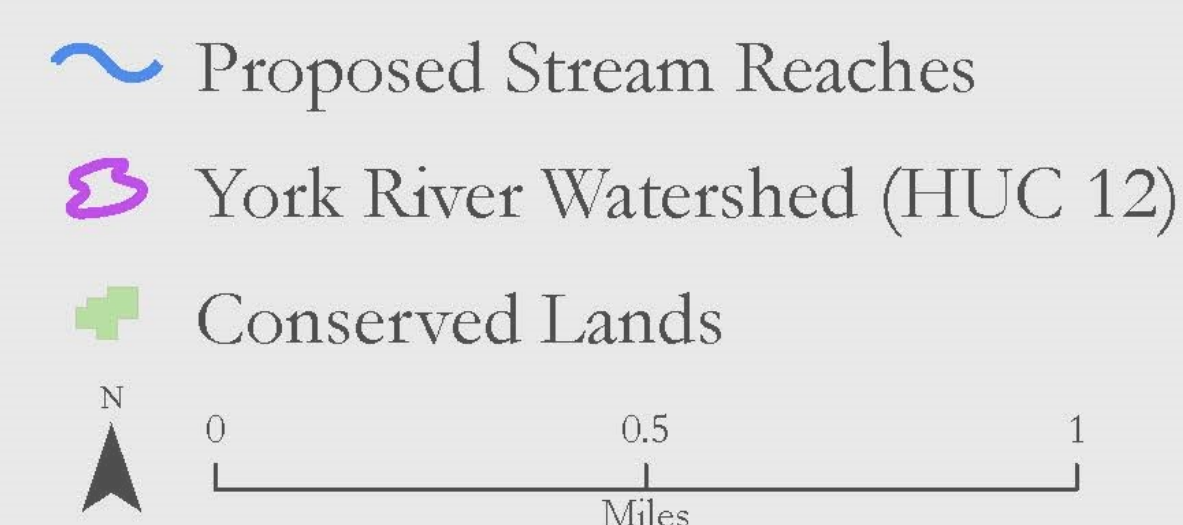
- 13-mile mostly tidal river, beginning at outlet of York Pond, flowing to York Harbor and the Gulf of Maine
- Productive estuary, healthy marshes
- Early colonial settlement, diverse and well-preserved historic sites

Ecological, cultural, and economic importance

## YORK RIVER WATERSHED

- 33 square miles in 4 towns
- 110 miles of rivers and streams
- 50% land area in large undeveloped habitat blocks; 27% permanently conserved or water supply lands
- Population ~7,200, fast growing area
- Diverse habitats, many community values

## Proposed Stream Reaches for PWSR Designation: York River Watershed



## Diverse species and habitats

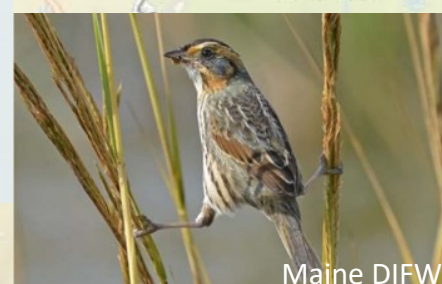
- Greatest concentration of endangered and threatened species in Maine
- Part of largest coastal forest area between Acadia and Pine Barrens
- Includes 2 State Ecological Focus Areas



Chuck Maranhas



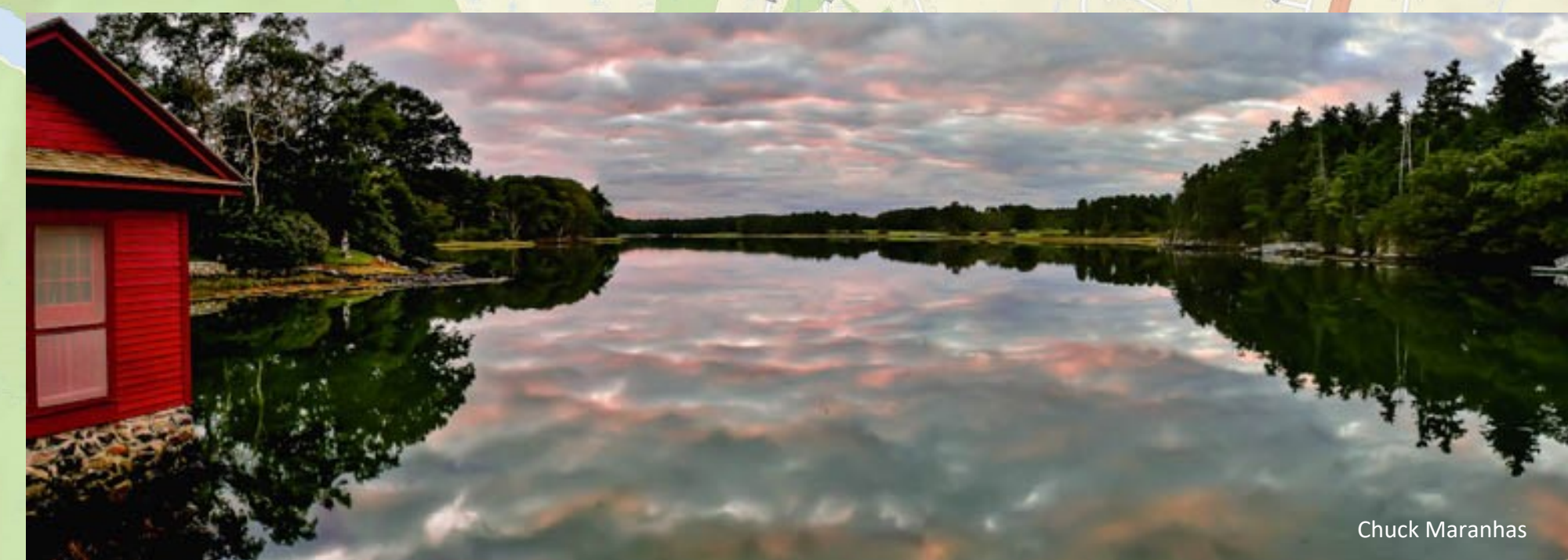
Nolan Phelps



Maine DFW

## Regional water supply

- Over 900 million gallons per year
- Serves Kittery, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and parts of Eliot and York



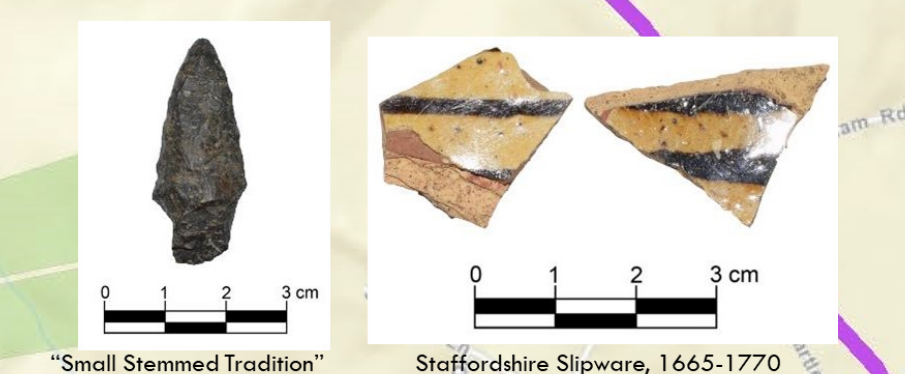
Chuck Maranhas

## Archaeology sites

- 23 prehistoric and 94 historic period sites
- 5,000 year old projectile point (2017 survey)
- Earliest colonial tidal mill dam (1634) and 17<sup>th</sup> century homesteads
- Punkintown area—suitable for archaeological district nomination to National Register



Northeast Archaeology Research Center



"Small Stemmed Tradition" 5,000-4,500 BP

Staffordshire Slipware, 1665-1770



Stefan Claesson



David J. Murray, ClearEyePhoto.com

## Salt marsh & estuary

- 500 acres salt marsh
- Used by 23 different fish species
- 2,500 acres tidal wading bird and waterfowl habitat



Jerry Monkman, Ecophotography.com



Jennifer Hunter



Sewall's Bridge. Built 1761. First Pile Bridge Built in America, York Village, Maine.

Postcard image courtesy of Cindy Donnell



Old York Historical Society

## Climate change resilience

- Healthy salt marshes, natural stream buffers, and good water quality conditions enhance resiliency
- Space for marsh migration with sea level rise
- Unfragmented landscape supports wildlife movement



Jerry Monkman, Ecophotography.com

## Historic places

- 8 sites listed in National Register of Historic Places, such as John Hancock Warehouse, McIntire Garrison, and Frost Garrison, plus National Register Historic District
- 3 local historic districts with 76 historic properties
- Sewall's Bridge, a historic civil engineering landmark

## Working waterfront

- Public and private infrastructure supports 30-35 commercial fishing boats, plus recreational access
- Landings ~\$3.5 to \$4 million per year
- First in nation working waterfront conservation easement for fishermen and land trust



D.H. Osborne

## YORK RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE

Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick and York

[www.YorkRiverMaine.org](http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org)

York River Watershed Stewardship Plan

Prepared by the York River Study Committee – August 2018