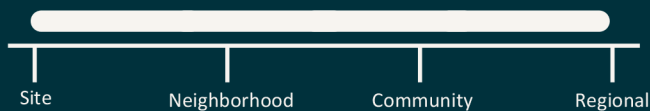


Location

# Commercial Street Wharves, Portland

SCALE



Aerial image of Commercial Street from Alex MacLean.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The commercial street wharves in Portland, Maine are a series of historic piers stretching along the city's working waterfront. These wooden structures, some dating back to the 19th century, still serve as active hubs for the fishing industry and other maritime businesses, while also hosting restaurants and shops that cater to tourists.

**TRAVEL CORRIDORS & INFRASTRUCTURE:**

The Commercial Street wharves are primarily within the FEMA floodplain and vulnerable to flooding from 1.5 feet of sea level rise. At 3.9 feet of Sea Level Rise, a large portion of Commercial Street and connected access roads could be flooded.

**ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

Essential services like electricity, water supply, and telecommunications may face disruptions due to flooded equipment or damaged underground infrastructure. More intense rainfall events could overwhelm stormwater and wastewater systems, potentially leading to decreased water quality.

**ECONOMY:**

Sea level rise and storm surge could cause regular flooding on Commercial Street, disrupting important infrastructure supporting the marine-industrial industry and the Casco Bay Lines terminal, the major transportation hub for the Casco Bay islands.

**COASTAL HAZARDS**



Storm Surge



Sea Level Rise

**VULNERABILITIES**



Working Waterfront



Travel Corridors



Coastal Infrastructure

**STRATEGY TYPE**



Policy/Program



Nature-based



Hardscape

**WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY SITE?**

The Commercial Street wharves were identified as a priority site because its a local and regional economic hub tied to recreation, tourism, and a working waterfront. The area also provides critical access to the islands that are located in Casco Bay.

**STRATEGIES:**

- Elevating structures and critical infrastructure
- Improving drainage systems
- Constructing or enhancing sea walls
- Wave attenuation with living shorelines
- Developing long-term retreat strategies

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