A Watershed-based Environmental Education Program Custom Designed for Middle-School Teachers in the Kennebec Valley Region

The health of the ocean and its estuaries is inextricably linked to every-day living and learning decisions made far upstream in the watersheds of the rivers that nourish them. Preparing the next generation of young people to make critical, science-based decisions about where they live matters to all of us. Herring Gut Learning Center offers its scientific and environmental education expertise to school systems in the Kennebec River watershed with an opportunity to create programs specifically designed to meet communities where and how they live in their watershed.

When communities come together to learn about and value the ecological systems that support clean water as it flows through the places where they live on its way to the sea, everyone benefits...the economy and business community, the natural environment, the residents of the watershed and their quality of life.

"No water, no life. No blue, no green."
- Sylvia Earle

This program provides the following **at no cost to teachers:**

- An on-campus summer professional learning academy for teachers from June 28 - July 2, 2021
  - Breakfast and lunch provided on full days
  - Field trips to local field sites
  - Port Clyde experience of ocean wildlife evening cruise
  - Experience of coastal ecosystems within Muscongus Bay
  *Attendees responsible for overnight lodging and dinners.*
- All digital and physical materials required to conduct activities in the classroom or in the field
- A robust interactive website that reaches throughout Maine to develop the knowledge, skills, and capacity for all generations to act within their communities and ‘glocally’ (local and global) for the provision of healthy water
- Support and mentoring during the school year by HGLC education staff
- Networking opportunities with other schools in the watershed
- Opportunity to create a community project based on learning

Please follow this link to apply to the **Fresh to Salt: Flowing Together** program: [https://forms.gle/gw8AssMDZUZ1Hipw5](https://forms.gle/gw8AssMDZUZ1Hipw5)

"A drop of water, if it could write out its own history, would explain the universe to us."
- Lucy Larcom
Through exploration and a culminating project, students will have the opportunity to build relationships with:

**SELF:** Mental and emotional resilience, personal strengths and relationship building.

**COMMUNITY:** Social connection and support, advocacy and career opportunities.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Time spent outdoors, environmental health and personal health.

Please check out this video sharing more details about the Fresh to Salt Program: [https://youtu.be/iD3EOyn2enU](https://youtu.be/iD3EOyn2enU)

Herring Gut Learning Center is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit in the state of Maine. We have a 21-year legacy of working with students K-12, educators, and community members to improve ocean and climate literacy, aiming at sustainable ways of living and interacting with the environment. Our vision is to become the ‘go to’ source for environmental educational content, resources, and professional learning focusing on the interface of human and marine and freshwater environments.