



# Island Institute Fellows Program

## Past, Current, and Future Roles in Supporting Coastal Resilience

Abby Roche, Community Development Officer  
Melanie Nash, Island Fellow, Long Island

# Roadmap for our talk



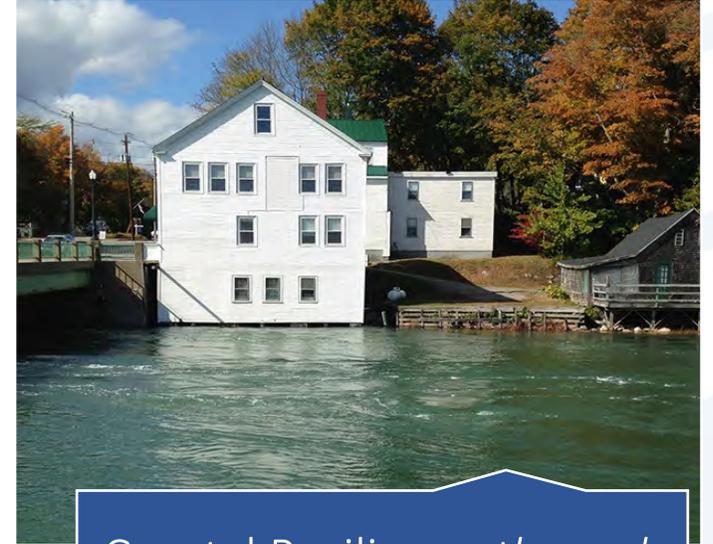
Island Institute

The Island Institute works alongside Maine's island and coastal leaders to **build community sustainability** in island and coastal communities and **share solutions** for addressing our coast's most **critical issues**.



Island Fellows Program

The Island Fellows aims to build capacity by meeting **community-stated needs** through project-based work & **increasing capacity** for the local management of historical, cultural, natural, economic and informational resources,



Coastal Resilience *through* Community Vision

Melanie Nash shares notes from the work she's done with the Town of Long Island on their **community visioning process** – specifically the connection between coastal resilience and **community centered engagement processes**

# Island Institute



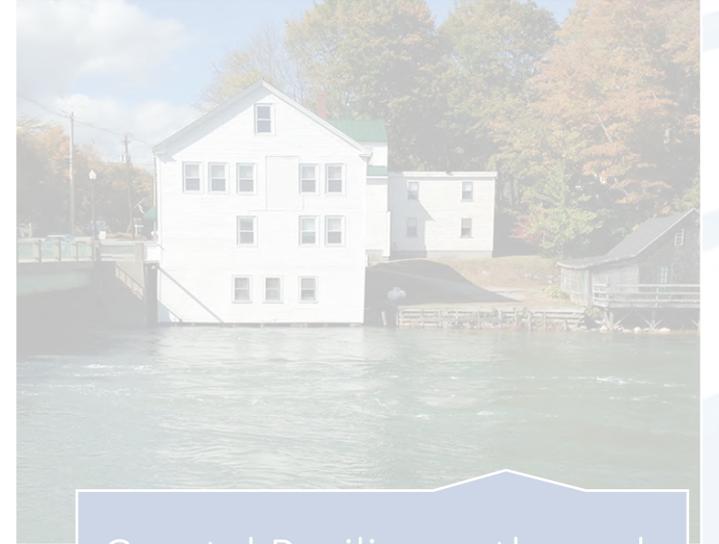
Island Institute

The Island Institute works alongside Maine's island and coastal leaders to **build community sustainability** in island and coastal communities and **share solutions** for addressing our coast's most **critical issues**.



Island Fellows Program

The Island Fellows aims to build capacity by meeting **community-stated needs** through project-based work & **increasing capacity** for the local management of historical, cultural, natural, economic and informational resources,



Coastal Resilience through  
Community Vision

Melanie Nash shares notes from the work she's done with the Town of Long Island on **community visioning process** –specifically the connection between coastal resilience and **community centered engagement processes**



**ISLAND  
INSTITUTE**

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

**Strong  
LEADERSHIP**

- Leadership Framework
- Fellows
- Education
- Inclusion and Equity

**CLIMATE  
Solutions**

- Clean Energy
- Sea Level Rise
- Ocean Acidification

**Resilient  
ECONOMIES**

- Marine Economy
- Sustainable Seafood
- Working Waterfronts
- Small Business
- Broadband
- Creative Economy

# Island Fellows Program



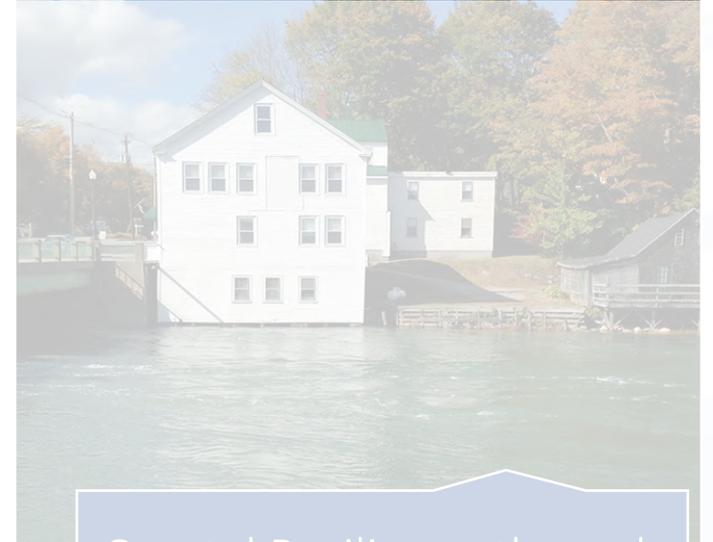
Island Institute

The Island Institute works alongside Maine's island and coastal leaders to **build community sustainability** in island and coastal communities and **share solutions** for addressing our coast's most **critical issues**.



Island Fellows Program

The Island Fellows Program aims to build capacity by meeting **community-stated needs** through project-based work & **increasing capacity** for the local management of historical, cultural, natural, economic and informational resources.



Coastal Resilience through  
Community Vision

Melanie Nash shares notes from the work she's done with the Town of Long Island on **community visioning process** –specifically the connection between coastal resilience and **community centered engagement processes**

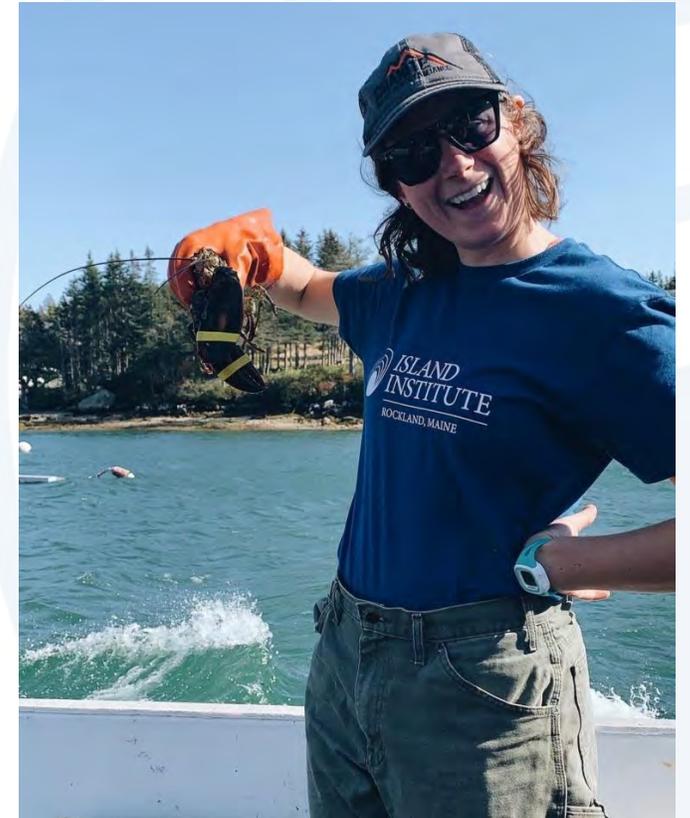
# Island Fellows Program

## Overview

- Fellowships provide a unique 2-year opportunity for recent graduates to **apply their skills and gain experience** helping to build sustainability within communities whose way of life and identity face many challenges.

## Details

- **Immersion** in the community connects fellows directly with islanders to gain an **intimate understanding** of island life and to understand the **needs and opportunities** around the identified project.
  - Host sites can include municipal offices, schools, and non-profit organizations within a community
  - Long Island, Chebeague Island, North Haven Island, Vinalhaven Island, Eastport, Deer Isle, Islesboro, Beals Island, and Machias



# Coastal Resilience



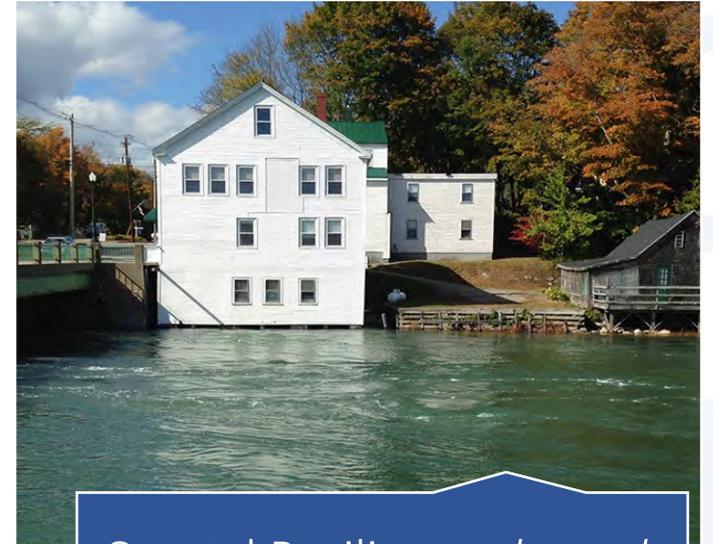
Island Institute

The Island Institute works alongside Maine's island and coastal leaders to **build community sustainability** in island and coastal communities and **share solutions** for addressing our coast's most **critical issues**.



Island Fellows Program

The Island Fellows aims to build capacity by meeting **community-stated needs** through project-based work & **increasing capacity** for the local management of historical, cultural, natural, economic and informational resources,



Coastal Resilience *through* Community Vision

Melanie Nash shares notes from the work she's done with the Town of Long Island on their **community visioning process** – specifically the connection between coastal resilience and **community centered engagement processes**



# Fellowship at a Glance

**Where?** The Town of Long Island, Casco Bay

**When?** September 2021 – August 2023

**Who?** The Town of Long Island, the Comprehensive Plan Committee

**What?** A Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Long Island

**Why?** "To articulate and communicate the shared vision for the future of our town over the next 15 years."

# Vision and Values

---



- **The community survey** results informed our process.
- **Open-response questions** allowed for thematic coding to develop five guiding principles.
  - Community Spirit, Equitable, Livable, Resilient, Resourceful
- **Vision workshops** started with information sharing about survey results, then broke into working groups.
  - **Working groups** developed the framework for the rest of the comprehensive plan.

Photo Credit: Beth Marchak (top), Melanie Nash

# Products of This Work

---

- **Partnerships** with organizations and other towns.
  - Consideration of the GOPIF grant program with the Island Institute as service provider.
  - Collaboration with other municipalities during planning.
  - Information sharing with local organizations like the Friends of Casco Bay and the Casco Bay Islands Alliance.
- **Guiding principles** to steer the writing of the comprehensive plan.
- The creation of a new Groundwater Quality Committee on the island.



Photo Credit: Linda Ferguson McCann

# Coastal Resilience *Through* Community Vision

---



Photo Credit: Janice Avignon

- Projects are **designed and led by the communities**, which gives fellows the opportunity to **support true community needs**.
- Every community's **definition of coastal resilience is different**.
- This work allows an opportunity for early career professionals to practice **inclusive science communication strategies** like 'With, Not For.'

# Please be in touch!



**ABBY ROCHE**

Community Development Officer  
Sea Level Rise, Island Fellows,  
Community Leadership

[aroche@islandinstitute.org](mailto:aroche@islandinstitute.org)

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



**MELANIE NASH**

Island Fellow  
Long Island

[mnash@islandinstitute.org](mailto:mnash@islandinstitute.org)

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



# ISLAND INSTITUTE

---

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



# ISLAND INSTITUTE

---

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