

Friends of Casco Bay

Casco BAYKEEPER®

Launching an international movement

The Casco BAYKEEPER®, under the umbrella of Friends of Casco Bay, is a founding member of WATERKEEPER® Alliance, an international environmental movement that began on New York's Hudson River, where commercial and recreational fishermen united to save the river from polluters. The Waterkeeper concept evolved from gamekeepers in Great Britain who were responsible for maintaining private trout and salmon streams for wealthy landowners. The American interpretation of this role safeguards our waterways for the entire population.



The success of the Hudson RIVERKEEPER® inspired similar stewardship programs on other water bodies. When Maine native Joe Payne was hired in 1989 as Casco Baykeeper, Casco Bay became the seventh water body in the world with a licensed Waterkeeper. A decade later, environmental attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., along with the seven pioneering water keepers, formed Waterkeeper Alliance. Its membership has grown to more than 150 Waterkeepers throughout North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia, with more than 100 other groups seeking to join this network.

The Waterkeeper model works

Casco Baykeeper Joe Payne asserts, "The keeper model provides a visible advocate who defends the health and well-being of the water body. Waterkeepers around the world have won hard-fought battles against those who would profit from degrading our water resources. That misuse of our waters, in truth, makes the rest of us poorer."

In the late 1990s, the Santa Monica BAYKEEPER® filed a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles, alleging more than 20,000 violations of the federal Clean Water Act due to on-going city sewage spills. Some of the spills flowed into storm drains and into river and ocean waters, causing bacterial contamination and beach closures. In 2004, the city agreed to spend billions of dollars to repair its dilapidated sewer system.

In Australia, farmers along the Lang Lang River turned to their Riverkeeper to help them block a proposal to build six large chicken broiler sheds and an effluent dam within 200 feet of the river, in an area subject to flooding. The farmers' efforts to revegetate the river area had resulted in the return of local wildlife, including platypus. The Lang Lang RIVERKEEPER® helped the farmers make their case to the permitting authority, which ultimately denied the development.

Collaboration in Casco Bay

Many Waterkeepers rely on lawsuits and fines to force polluters to comply with conservation regulations. "Litigation will always be a tool in our toolbox," says Casco Baykeeper Joe Payne, "but Friends of Casco Bay has become the model for a less confrontational, 'work with' approach, made possible by the shared environmental values of those who live, work, and play on Casco Bay."

What is a Waterkeeper?

- An informed environmental advocate,
- A consistent voice on the water,
- A flexible coalition builder,
- A trusted spokesperson,
- A thorough investigator,
- A dependable listener,
- A community servant,
- A dedicated scientist,
- A dynamic educator,
- A resolute leader,
- A trusted expert,
- An economist,
- A visionary.

— WATERKEEPER® Alliance
www.waterkeeper.org



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The Casco BAYKEEPER® advocates on behalf of the Bay

Whether on the water or in meeting halls, Casco Baykeeper Joe Payne is a constant presence leading efforts to improve and protect the environmental health of Casco Bay.

What does it mean to be a Waterkeeper?

Waterkeepers, whether Riverkeepers, Soundkeepers, Bayoukeepers, or Baykeepers, all share the same mission: to defend their water bodies by responding to citizen concerns, advocating compliance with environmental laws, and working to resolve pollution problems that threaten their waterways. The Board of WATERKEEPER® Alliance reviews and certifies every program that seeks to call itself Waterkeeper. As a founding member of Waterkeeper Alliance, Friends of Casco Bay helped set the requirements for licensing that each program must meet:

1 A recognizable person to serve as a full-time, paid public advocate for the water body

That individual is an “aqua-cop” committed to enforcing environmental laws and standards. A Waterkeeper uses whatever tools are appropriate, from personal persuasion and public opinion to government intervention or litigation.



Joe Payne
Casco BAYKEEPER®

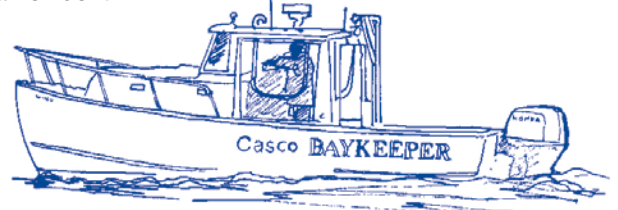
2 Members whom the Waterkeeper represents

Members provide the grassroots constituency that may be called upon to influence polluters, media, state agencies, and politicians. In addition, they help provide operating income and, most critically, give the Waterkeeper organization legal standing. One of the strongest tools a keeper has is the Citizen Suit provision of the Clean Water Act, which allows Waterkeepers and others acting for the environment to sue polluters. The Clean Water Act gives “any citizen” the authority “to commence a civil action” against an entity

(including the federal or state government) that is violating “an effluent standard or limitation.” In a court of law, the Waterkeeper literally speaks for the organization’s individual members.

3 A boat with the Waterkeeper name clearly labeled to ensure on-the-water recognition

That clearly-identified presence may be as modest as a canoe or as imposing as a high-speed patrol boat, whatever mode of transportation is best suited to maintain on-the-water vigilance.



4 An office where the Waterkeeper or a sponsoring non-profit conducts fundamental tasks

Tasks that are required to support the program include book-keeping, strategic planning, and fundraising. A Waterkeeper cannot be a government employee.

5 A phone number citizens can call to report pollution incidents or concerns

The Waterkeeper answers questions, speaks at public meetings, and talks with people around the Bay. The phone number represents response, advocacy, and enforcement.



Go to the Friends of Casco Bay website, www.cascobay.org, and click on “Report What You See” for a list of other important phone numbers for protecting Casco Bay.

799-8574

