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Robert Godfrey

2014 People's Choice Award

for his perseverance in protecting the beauty and heritage of Downeast Maine by leading the grassroots organization, Save Passamaquoddy Bay.

Each year, as part of our Conservation Awards, we hold our People's Choice Award. This year, we received 39 People's Choice nominations from across the state—so many that rather than narrowing down the field of finalists to five, as we usually, we expanded the number this year to six. They are **Rachel Burger** of South Portland, for her passionate work as the leader of Protect South Portland, the citizen group working to keep tar sands oil out of their community and the state of Maine; **Paul Haertel** of Southwest Harbor, for his stewardship of Maine's environment over many years, including involvement with the Penobscot River Restoration Project, Acadia Birding Festival, and others; **Mary Anne Mitchell** of Peaks Island, for serving as a passionate community advocate for the environment on Peaks Island and beyond; **Kit Pfeiffer** of Whitefield, for her commitment to teaching youth, senior citizens, and others about the natural world and the importance of protecting it for future generations, and **Deb Wilson** of Nobleboro, for her efforts to restore the fish ladder at Damariscotta Mills that has been critical for the now-thriving alewife population in the river. Each of these finalists received a certificate of recognition. Thanks to everyone who nominated candidates and who took the time to vote. We hope you will participate again next year.

The winner of our People's Choice Award is determined by vote by NRCM supporters. We are delighted that the 2014 People's Choice Award went to Robert Godfrey, for his efforts to protect Passamaquoddy Bay in Downeast Maine. This year marks the 10th year of Save Passamaquoddy Bay, the grassroots organization for which Bob has provided leadership and strategic guidance that has kept liquefied natural gas (LNG) out of Passamaquoddy Bay. As one voter put it, "It has been an intellectual, soulful, physical, and financially demanding fight against a cadre of developers, more than a dozen of the nation's largest law firms, and corporate giants who have put at least \$70 million into taking the bay to industrialize it." To the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Bob is an example of the power of citizen activism, not only making his own voice heard but bringing together the rally cry of many. As we have seen many times before, this kind of community effort can make a big impression upon decision makers. Bob Godfrey deserves our 2014 People's Choice Award for his tenacity, perseverance, leadership, and unwavering devotion to protecting the beauty and heritage of Downeast Maine and Passamaquoddy Bay, and it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, to present it to him tonight.