



## **PROGRAM**



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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that our symposium is being hosted from Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

In Mi'kma'ki, we are surrounded by thousands of kilometers of coastline. The Mi'kmaq people are the original caretakers of these lands and these shorelines. Before colonizers began to section off and privatize land, the coast was a place of free movement for the Mi'kmaq. For generations, and long before European colonization, the Mi'kmaq have understood that the coast is dynamic and always changing, and they have lived in a way that respects this.

We also recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years. African Nova Scotian communities have experienced environmental racism and been forced to live on the region's most inhospitable lands including the expulsion and disenfranchisement from coastal spaces.

We further recognize and acknowledge that our symposium speakers are coming to us from coastal spaces that have been, and continue to, suffer the effects of historical colonization as well as modern forms of exclusion from and participation over coastal spaces they call home.

We recognize these historical and contemporary realities because they have played a central role in shaping current predominant legal frameworks and property regimes that inform the many issues of coastal access the researchers, practitioners and advocates at this symposium seek to address.

# ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The Coastal Access Working Group, based in Nova Scotia, Canada is excited to host the inaugural International Coastal Access Symposium to be held virtually on March 26, 2026.

Coastal access is the ability for people to travel to, and laterally along, the coastline. Access to coastal spaces is a problem shared by coastal communities around the world that are impacted by high desirability of coastal spaces, coastal development, tourism, coastal processes and the impacts of climate change. Coastal access issues are often rooted in historical social injustices that are perpetuated today resulting in complex policy problems. With less than 16% of global coastlines experiencing low anthropogenic impact, addressing how humans share the coast is imperative to both social and ecological coastal sustainability.

This virtual symposium invites speakers from around the world to share stories, research, and policy insights and advances related to protecting, preserving, and enhancing public coastal access. Hosted in partnership with the Ecology Action Centre, Dalhousie University and East Coast Environmental Law, this free event aims to enhance public discussions about coastal access and create an opportunity for participants to learn from each other and contribute to ongoing advancements in coastal access research and advocacy.

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**Symposium Technology Support Volunteers:** Eshrat Edalat and Kate DesRoches

## **Symposium logo design by Lily Hull**

*“When first designing the logo, I planned to focus on elements that resembled water and the coastline. I wanted to showcase Nova Scotia's coastlines in particular, specifically the famous Bay of Fundy.”*

# ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM WORKING GROUP

The Coastal Access Working Group is composed of cross-sectional researchers, practitioners and advocates who are working together to advance our understanding of coastal access in our region through engagement, mapping coastal access and research.



## ***Dr. Patricia Manuel***

Dr. Patricia Manuel is a retired professor of planning at Dalhousie University with post-retirement appointments in the School of Planning and the Marine Affairs Program. As a geographer and environmental planner, with expertise in wetlands, watersheds, and coastal systems, Patricia supports communities in their efforts to ensure that land use and development respects natural systems. Throughout her career working in coastal places, Patricia has also studied coastal access and in recent years has been working with students and

colleagues to build an inventory of publicly owned access around Nova Scotia's coast. An inventory is an important tool for securing and growing access in a province where coastal access for the public cannot be taken for granted.



## ***Dr. Hannah Harrison***

Dr. Hannah Harrison works as an assistant professor in the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University. Hannah's interest in coastal access stems from growing up in Alaska where access to the ocean is a fundamental part of life and livelihoods. Today, she is interested in how coastal access conflicts emerge, evolve, and impact communities and policy in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada more broadly. As part of this work, Hannah co-leads the Coastal Access Project and co-created the award-winning [Right of Way podcast](#).

# ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM WORKING GROUP



## ***Mike Kofahl***

Mike Kofahl is a staff lawyer at East Coast Environmental Law whose work focuses on coastal and marine environmental law and policy. Mike's interest in coastal access stems from his legal research on coastal protection and management law, and his advocacy for stronger laws in Atlantic Canada for the coast. Mike has produced public legal education materials and reports about coastal access and delivered community workshops that explored how coastal access intersects with other areas of coastal governance.



## ***Nicolas Winkler***

Nicolas Winkler is the EAC's coastal adaptation coordinator. Nicolas grew up in the Caribbean island of Grenada that has informed his work as an interdisciplinary ocean advocate with a background in marine biology, international development and marine management. His interest in human-ocean relationships has led him on storytelling journeys through photography, film and podcasts covering topics from sea turtle conservation in the Caribbean to great white sharks and coastal access in Nova Scotia. Nicolas is passionate about the complex socio-ecological challenges of the coast including access, development, equity, climate change and conservation.



## ***Lily Hull***

Lily Hull is a fourth-year student at Acadia University doing a double major in Community Development and Environmental Sustainability Studies with Honours. She is completing a co-op with the Ecology Action Centre, supporting work related to designing, organizing and implementing the International Coastal Access Symposium. Lily brings a creative, community-oriented approach, strong communication skills, and a passion for making the world a better place.

# SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

	Symposium Time (ADT*)	Presentation	Session Moderator
Session 1	0900 - 0920	Welcome and Opening - Nicolas Winkler	
	0920 - 0930	Outputs of the symposium – Dr. Hannah Harrison	
	0930 - 1000	Mike Kofahl (Atlantic Canada) <i>Staff Lawyer at East Coast Environmental Law</i> <b>Public Coastal Access in Atlantic Canada: The Environmental Law &amp; Policy Context</b>	Hannah Harrison
	1000 - 1030	Kira Clingen (Gulf of Maine, USA) <i>PhD Candidate at the University of Cambridge</i> <b>Toward a Global Framework for Coastal Public Access</b>	
Break	1030 - 1045	COFFEE BREAK (15mins) – Virtual Networking Room Open	
Session 2	1045 - 1115	Dr. Jesse Reiblich (United States) <i>Assistant Professor at the University of Rhode Island</i> <b>Assessing the Effectiveness of Rhode Island's Shoreline Access Policies in the Context of Climate Change</b>	Mike Kofahl & Lily Hull
	1115 - 1145	Ulsía Urrea Mariño, MSc. (Mexico) <i>Member of Nodes C24-BIKIMI and A60-Altamare at Red Iberoamericana de Gestión y Certificación de Playas</i> <b>Mexican Coastal Zone Privatization: Beach Access &amp; Free Transit Challenges</b>	
Break	1145 – 1230	LUNCH BREAK (45mins) - Virtual Networking Room Open	

\*ADT - Atlantic Daylight Time

# SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

	Symposium Time (ADT*)	Presentation	Session Moderator
Session 3	1230 - 1300	Dr. Devon Taylor (Jamaica, West Indies) <i>President of the Jamaica Beach Birthright Environmental Movement (JaBBEM)</i> <b>Plantation Tourism &amp; Beach Rights: Beyond Access</b>	Nicolas Winkler
	1300 - 1330	Andre Joseph-Witzig (Grenada, Caribbean) <i>Technical Advisor at Grenada Land Actors Inc.</i> <b>Emerging Coastal Access Issues in Grenada</b>	
Break	1330 - 1345	COFFEE BREAK (15mins) - Virtual Networking Room Open	
Session 4	1345 – 1415	Dr. Patricia Manuel (Atlantic Canada) <i>Retired Professor, School of Planning, Dalhousie University</i> <b>Connecting the shore: Building an Inventory of Public Coastal Access in Support of Coastal Protection, Advocacy, &amp; Research in Nova Scotia</b>	Mike Kofahl
	1415 – 1445	Linda Locklin (California, USA) <i>Coastal Access Program Manager for the State of California; California Coastal Commission</i> <b>Coastal Access To &amp; Along the California Coast</b>	
	1445 – 1515	Dr. Shane Orchard (New Zealand) <i>Senior Research Fellow at the University of Canterbury</i> <b>A Review of Emerging Issues for Public Coastal Access in an Era of Climate Change</b>	Hannah Harrison
Closing	1515 – 1530	Closing Remarks - Dr. Patricia Manuel	

\*ADT - Atlantic Daylight Time

# SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

## Mike Kofahl

Atlantic Canada | *Staff Lawyer, East Coast Environmental Law*

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Mike Kofahl is a staff lawyer at East Coast Environmental Law whose work focuses on coastal and marine environmental law and policy. Mike's interest in coastal access stems from his legal research on coastal protection and management law, and his advocacy for stronger laws in Atlantic Canada for the coast. Mike has produced public legal education materials and reports about coastal access and delivered community workshops that explored how coastal access intersects with other areas of coastal governance.

Key Resources: Prince Edward Island Coastal Access Law & Policy — [Charlottetown Workshop Summary Report](#)

[East Coast Environmental Law Website](#)

## Kira Clingen

Gulf of Maine, USA | *PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge*

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Kira Bre Clingen is a landscape architect whose work focuses on communicating climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, including the ways that sea level rise and storm surge will reshape coastal access. Born and raised on the Gulf of Maine in the United States, she is currently a PhD candidate in Architecture at the University of Cambridge and Research Affiliate at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design's Office for Urbanization.

Key Resources: Coastal Public Access Paper — [Ecological Challenges of the Coast Including Access, Development, Equity, Climate Change and Conservation.](#)



# SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

## Dr. Jesse Reiblich

Rhode Island, USA | Assistant Professor, University of Rhode Island



Jesse's research interests include coastal access and related topics, including the public trust doctrine and surf break protection. Most recently he worked on a research project studying the effectiveness of Rhode Island's shoreline access law and published a review of public access emerging issues and potential solutions. He also recently published a book chapter about how technology can protect access, and has a manuscript under review studying how social and environmental data can assess coastal access's vulnerability to sea level rise. Jesse approaches coastal access from the legal perspective and teams with interdisciplinary researchers to address these issues.

Key Resources: [After Rhode Island's Shoreline Access Law, What's Next? Westerly Sun.](#)

## Ulsía Urrea Mariño, MSc.

Mexico, North America | Member of Nodes C24-BIKIMI and A60-Altamare, Red Iberoamericana de Gestión y Certificación de Playas (PROPLAYAS)



Ulsía is a Mexican Ph.D. candidate in the Coastal and Marine Systems Sciences program at the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, in the USA. She is dedicated to studying the integrated management of coastal zones in Latin America, with a focus on the privatization of the Mexican coastal zone from administrative and factual perspectives. As a member of the Ibero-American Network for Beach Management and Certification (PROPLAYAS, Spanish acronym), she has collaborated in the project “Democratic Beaches.” She has also been interviewed by the press several times about her work-related beach access issues in Mexico.

Key Resources: [PROPLAYAS Network](#), [Instagram](#) & [Facebook Sources of information for the management of coastal territory in Mexico.](#)  
[Privatization of the Mexican Coast, the Case of the Municipality of Solidaridad, Quintana Roo](#)

# SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

## Dr. Devon Taylor

West Indies, Jamaica | *President , Jamaica Beach Birthright Environmental Movement (JaBBEM)*



Devon is by training a Biomedical scientist in the field of Immunology from Steer Town St. Ann; a Northern coastal town in Jamaica. He is a social, economic and environmental justice advocate with interest in community deconstruction, rising wealth inequality, land rights and the exclusion of indigenous and vulnerable people from environmentally critical and economically valuable ecosystems, particularly beaches and rivers to create environmentally unsustainable infrastructure projects. Devon is an environmental defender and an advocate for the right of nature status for beach ecosystems, seas and rivers as an environmental tool to protect nature. Devon is also a Founding member of the environmental justice movement “Jamaica Beach Birthright Environmental Movement (JABBEM)” which is an equal rights and environmental justice movement that seeks to undo and replace discriminatory beach access, land and use of the sea policies that are targeted against the Jamaican people.

Key Resources: [JaBBEM Network](#), [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)

[Why can't Jamaicans access their own beaches? YouTube Video](#)

# SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

## **Andre Joseph-Witzig**

**Grenada, Caribbean | Technical Advisor, Grenada Land Actors Inc.**

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Andre Joseph-Witzig is a Grenadian environmental specialist. His BSc is in Life Sciences and Marine Biology from the St. Georges University, and he has a Masters in Coastal Science and Policy from the University of California, Santa Cruz. His research has focused on coastal ecosystem services and monitoring beach erosion. He has contributed to climate change and coastal zone management policy and interventions in Grenada, together with international agencies and the Ministry of the Environment. He is also a member of a local NGO Grenada Land Actors, which is challenging destructive coastal mega-tourism developments which are taking place in the most sensitive parts of the country.

Key Resources: [Grenada Land Actors](#)

## **Dr. Patricia Manuel**

**Nova Scotia Canada | Retired Professor, Dalhousie University**

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Dr. Patricia Manuel is a retired Professor of Planning at Dalhousie University with post-retirement appointments in the School of Planning and the Marine Affairs Program. As a geographer and environmental planner, with expertise in wetlands, watersheds, coastal systems, and climate change adaptation, Patricia supports communities in their efforts to ensure environmentally responsible land use and development. While working in coastal places, Patricia has also studied coastal access, including working with students and colleagues to build an inventory of publicly owned access around Nova Scotia's coast. An inventory is a necessary tool for protecting access in a province where public coastal access cannot be taken for granted.

Key Resources: [Summary Report: Coastal Access Workshop on Building Strategies and Relationships for Connecting with the Shore](#)

# SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

## Linda Locklin

California, USA | Coastal Access Program Manager, California Coastal Commission

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Linda Locklin is the Coastal Access Program Manager for the California Coastal Commission. Their state agency regulates coastal development in order to protect the natural and cultural resources and one of their main missions is to protect and provide public access to and along the coast. Linda has been the Manager of the Program since 1990 and is responsible for the entire California coast, a length of 1200 miles. Linda works with other State agencies, local governments, NGOs and Tribes to protect and provide public access for locals and visitors alike.

Key Resources: [State of California - Ca. Coastal Commission website](#)

## Dr. Shane Orchard

Aotearoa, New Zealand | Senior Research Fellow, University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha

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Dr Shane Orchard is a spatial ecologist and conservation scientist based in Aotearoa New Zealand. He works as an independent consultant in biogeography and socioecology. He is the current Oceania Regional Chair for the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), and a Senior Research Fellow and active researcher at the University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha. Shane's work focuses on developing strategies to build resilience and enhance the recovery of coastal, river and floodplain ecosystems. His main research interests are the impacts of hydrological hazards such as sea-level rise, flood and erosion regimes and their interactions with climate change.

Key Resources: [Public Coastal Access: Emerging Issues and Potential Solutions](#)

# PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Symposium Time (ADT)	Presentation
0900 - 0920	Welcome and Opening - Nicolas Winkler
0920 - 0930	Outputs of the Symposium - Dr. Hannah Harrison
0930 - 1000	<p><b>Public Coastal Access in Atlantic Canada: The Environmental Law &amp; Policy Context</b>  <b>Mike Kofahl<sup>1</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>East Coast Environmental Law</p> <p>This presentation will explore why public coastal access is an important part of coastal protection and management, and how environmental laws and policies in Atlantic Canada contribute to public coastal access.</p>
1000 - 1030	<p><b>Toward a Global Framework for Coastal Public Access</b>  <b>Kira Clingen<sup>1</sup></b>, Keoni Rodriguez<sup>2</sup>, Mercy Adhiambo<sup>2</sup>, Vanessa Cordova<sup>2</sup> &amp; Rai Saad Khan<sup>2</sup>  <sup>1</sup>University of Cambridge; <sup>2</sup>Planet Reimagined</p> <p>Across the globe, one in three people live within 100 kilometers of the oceanic coastline, relying on shorelines for work, food, culture, and recreation. Yet there is no shared global standard to protect the public's right to reach and use the coast. Climate change is making this problem urgent: rising seas, stronger storms, and eroding shorelines are reshaping coastlines and threatening access at a much faster pace than policy or regulations. This presentation, based on a 2021 report by Planet Reimagined Fellows, examines how different countries manage coastal access and finds that current approaches, whether based on land ownership, colonial-era laws, or commercial interests, are inadequate. They struggle to resolve conflicts between private development and public need, and they often exclude Indigenous communities and the poorest coastal populations. The presentation calls for a new rights-based global framework for coastal access that treats the coast as a shared public resource and is flexible to adapt as coastlines continue to change. The presentation concludes with a call to develop shared visual tools, including a global map of current coastal access policies, as a starting point toward establishing common knowledge and a shared framework for public coastal access.</p>

# PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Symposium Time (ADT)	Presentation
1030 - 1045	COFFEE BREAK (15mins) - Virtual Networking Room Open
1045 - 1115	<p><b>Assessing the Effectiveness of Rhode Island's Shoreline Access Policies in the Context of Climate Change</b>  <b>Dr. Jesse Reiblich<sup>1</sup></b>, Dr. Melva Treviño Peña<sup>1</sup> &amp; Dr. Nathan Vinhateiro<sup>1</sup>  <sup>1</sup>University of Rhode Island</p> <p>In 2023, the Rhode Island passed a new shoreline access law that enshrines the right of the public to ten feet above the high-water mark. This research project analyzes this new shoreline access law in two keyways. First, it studies whether the shoreline access law has successfully increased the ability of user groups to access the shore. Additionally, it assesses whether the defined demarcation of the shore is sufficient—i.e. is the line in the sand drawn in the right location or should it be further upland? This question is particularly important as seas rise and shorelines erode due to climate change. This research project is funded by a grant from the National Sea Grant Legal Center.</p>
1115 - 1145	<p><b>Mexican Coastal Zone Privatization: Beach Access &amp; Free Transit Challenges</b>  <b>Ulsía Urrea Mariño, MSc.<sup>1</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>Member of Nodes C24-BIKIMI and A60-Altamare, Red Iberoamericana de Gestión y Certificación de Playas (PROPLAYAS)</p> <p>Beach privatization can be analyzed from two perspectives. The first, called administrative privatization, is implemented through administrative acts that regulate the coastal zone, establishing categories of beneficiaries and permitted uses, according to a hierarchy based on national security, and economic and tax interests. The second, called per fact privatization, examines how everyday practices produce social phenomena such as segregation and the exclusion of people from public-use spaces, including beaches, through discriminatory practices based on skin color, place of residence (whether domestic or foreign), or type of employment (formal or informal). At the ground level, both types of privatizations may occur simultaneously. However, the most extreme form of both occurs through dispossession as a mechanism for appropriating territory, mainly mediated by institutional actions. This presentation aims to elaborate on both types of privatizations and their implications for access to and the provision of free transit on Mexican beaches.</p>

# PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Symposium Time (ADT)	Presentation
1145 - 1230	LUNCH BREAK (45mins) – Virtual Networking Room Open
1230 - 1300	<p><b>Plantation Tourism &amp; Beach Rights: Beyond Access</b>  <b>Dr. Devon Taylor</b><sup>1</sup>, Damion Coombs<sup>1</sup>, Kevin Gallimore<sup>1</sup>, Marven Dunn<sup>1</sup>, Wilbourn Carr<sup>1</sup>, Charlene Castle<sup>1</sup>, Michael Downer<sup>1</sup>, Paul Roberts<sup>1</sup>, Amanda Arbouin<sup>1</sup>, Camala Thomas<sup>1</sup>, Winston Monroe<sup>1</sup> &amp; Monique Christie<sup>1</sup>  <sup>1</sup>Jamaica Beach Birthright Environmental Movement (JABBEM)</p> <p>The Jamaican coastline is 494 miles in length of which only about 2.8 miles of it is beaches accessible to the Jamaican people. Under the colonial era Beach Control Act of 1956 (BCA-1956) Jamaicans have no inherent right to swim, bathe, fish, or to walk along the shoreline. Enacted six years before Jamaica's political independence, the BCA-1956 enshrines colonial logic at the coastline that treats the coast as a site for extraction of nature, labor, and community life rather than as a shared national heritage.</p> <p>Today, this logic persists through accelerated privatization driven by resort development. Large sections of the coast including the sea have been converted into exclusive zones that restrict traditional Jamaican access for fishing, recreation, spirituality, and cultural practice. The monopolization of beaches mirrors broader extractive patterns within plantation tourism: marginalization of the descendants of enslaved Africans (exclusivity), exploitation of hotel workers, environmental degradation, and the repatriation of profits to foreign corporations. As tourism expands, its demand for exclusive control of beachfront space intensifies the displacement of Jamaicans from Jamaican beaches.</p> <p>The JaBBEM movement is unbounded by colonialism and confronts these systems of oppression by challenging the racial, economic, and land-based inequities that sustain modern plantation tourism. At its core is the struggle to liberate the coastline as a place of livity for the Jamaican people and as a natural entity with inherent rights to exist.</p>

# PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Symposium Time (ADT)	Presentation
1300 - 1330	<p><b>Emerging Coastal Access Issues in Grenada</b>  <b>Andre Joseph-Witzig<sup>1</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>Grenada Land Actors Inc.</p> <p>This presentation will explore recent and emerging coastal access issues on the island of Grenada in the Eastern Caribbean. Although there is a history of public opposition against the restriction of coastal access in Grenada's past, recent mega resort construction and unplanned large scale industrial developments are threatening community livelihoods, coastal access and the destruction of coastal resources. These issues are taking place in some of the most sensitive parts of the country including the island's only Ramsar protected wetland, and in and around the habitat of the Grenada Dove, one of the most endangered birds in the world. There will be a focus on challenges to these developments by local community and NGOs, both in terms of legal action and protest. In many cases the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for these developments have been brought into question, as well as local planning frameworks which have prevented public consultation and involvement. These issues have also recently been exacerbated by climate change – due to the destruction to some of these sites by Hurricane Beryl in 2024.</p>
1330 - 1345	COFFEE BREAK (15mins) – Virtual Networking Room Open
1345 - 1415	<p><b>Connecting the shore: Building an Inventory of Public Coastal Access in Support of Coastal Protection, Advocacy, &amp; Research in Nova Scotia</b>  <b>Dr. Patricia Manuel<sup>1</sup></b>, Hannah Harrison<sup>1</sup> &amp; Nicolas Winkler<sup>3</sup>  <sup>1</sup>Dalhousie University, <sup>2</sup>Ecology Action Centre</p> <p>Coastal access is critical to the identify of coastal communities. In Nova Scotia, coastal land below the normal high tide line is Crown land and available for public use, but most of the land above the tide line is privately owned; only 14 percent is public land. Routes across public land are unevenly distributed around the province, so people often use undeveloped private land to reach the shore. These traditional routes are increasingly strained by development and conflict. Accessing the province's 13,000 kilometres of shoreland can be challenging.</p>

# PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Symposium Time (ADT)	Presentation
1345 - 1415	<p>Coastal access problems are not unique to Nova Scotia; but where other jurisdictions work to protect coastal access through integrated coastal zone management, access-specific programs and regulations, or inventories, Nova Scotia has no formal mechanism to manage coastal access. There is not a collective understanding of the extent and characteristics of public access.</p> <p>An inventory is an essential tool for understanding coastal access and developing strategies to address diminishing access due to changing coastal land use and climate change impacts. We present our NGO-university volunteer initiative to develop an inventory of public coastal access in support of coastal access stewardship in Nova Scotia. We describe the inventory and its application to identify access inequity, access at risk of climate change impacts, potential public-private land access conflicts, potential conflicts with nature conservation, and priority areas for increasing public access.</p>
1415 - 1445	<p><b>Coastal Access To &amp; Along the California Coast</b>  <b>Linda Locklin<sup>1</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>California Coastal Commission</p> <p>The California Coastal Act of 1976 mandates that the California Coastal Commission protect, enhance and provide public access to and along the 1200-mile-long California coast. We achieve this through our regulatory program, that is ensuring that new development provides public access opportunities, as well through our educational materials such as our California Coastal Access Guidebooks and YourCoast.org app. Our goal is to provide equitable access for everyone as well as to plan for Sea Level Rise impacts to existing facilities such as the California Coastal Trail.</p>

# PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Symposium Time (ADT)	Presentation
1445 - 1515	<p><b>A Review of Emerging Issues for Public Coastal Access in an Era of Climate Change</b>  <b>Dr. Shane Orchard</b><sup>1,2*</sup>, Jesse Reiblich<sup>3</sup> &amp; Maurício D. dos Santos<sup>4</sup></p> <p><sup>1</sup>University of Canterbury   Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha, Aotearoa New Zealand, <sup>2</sup>Waterlink Ltd., Ōtautahi Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand, <sup>3</sup>Department of Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island, Kingstown, Rhode Island, USA, <sup>4</sup>Brazilian National Postdoctoral Program, Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie, São Paulo, Brazil</p> <p>Public access to coastal environments is an often overlooked yet critical dimension of natural resource management. While coastal margins are naturally dynamic and often sensitive environments that reflect interactions between land and water, climate change is accelerating the rate of change in hydrometeorological regimes and landscape evolution processes. Many of these interact with the accessibility of coastal environments for contemporary and traditional resource uses and practices; and yet there have been very few studies on these interactions. In this paper we report on a global review that provides an initial step towards understanding and characterising current and emerging issues affecting public coastal access. A targeted keyword search of peer-reviewed and grey literature followed by content and thematic analysis was used to identify six key clusters of contemporary challenges: 1) Cumulative effects of coastal development; 2) Integrating public access with natural hazard management; 3) Coastal squeeze caused by rising sea levels; 4) Managing negative impacts of 'improved' access; 5) Recognizing customary and existing use values; and 6) Ensuring equity in public access. We describe the emerging and likely future considerations that contribute to each of these challenges and present case studies that illustrate real-world contexts and potential solutions in practice.</p>
1515 - 1530	Closing Remarks - Dr. Patricia Manuel

# SYMPOSIUM OUTPUTS

The symposium is designed to achieve three key outcomes that will guide both discussion and future action. First, a plain-language summary of the conference proceedings, including profiles of all speakers and presentations, notes on discussions that arose during Q&A times, and a list of coastal access resources. This report and resource lists will be distributed to all registrants in a free, digital format and available on the EAC and Coastal Access Project websites.

Second, video recordings of the event (with consent of speakers). These will be recorded throughout the day of the symposium and available on the EAC's website after the symposium concludes.

Finally, a peer-reviewed manuscript aimed at laying forth a research and activism agenda on coastal access. This paper will be developed by the symposium co-convenors and will invite all registrants to take part in a short survey where they can identify their top 3 pressing questions or challenges related to coastal access. The results of this survey will be consolidated into a list and discussion of key directions for future coastal access work, and all survey participants will be invited to be a co-author on the manuscript.

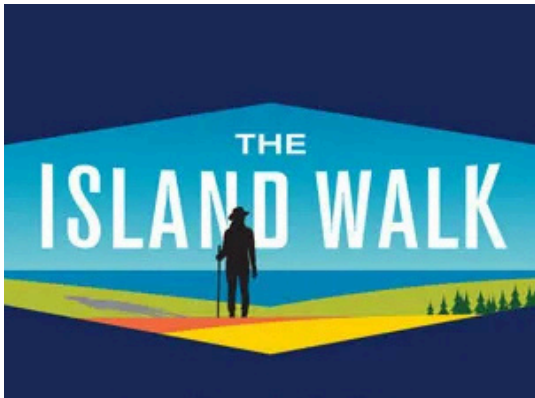
# COASTAL ACCESS RESOURCES

We would like to share the following resources on coastal access to support learning, awareness, and informed dialogue around this important topic. By compiling this list of materials, our goal is to offer a starting point for further exploration. Please note that we are not directly involved in or affiliated with all of the organizations or initiatives.



## [Right of Way Podcast](#)

In Nova Scotia, we have a right to be on the coastline below the high-water mark, but no protected right to get there. But should we? Right of Way is a podcast that explores the issue of coastal access in Nova Scotia (and Canada more broadly) through the stories of property owners, communities, scientists, policy makers, environmental activists, surfers, hikers, and more. It is recorded, produced, and hosted by Nicolas Winkler and Hannah Harrison. It can be heard for free on most streaming platforms, or through the [Coastal Access Project](#).



## [The PEI Island Walk](#)

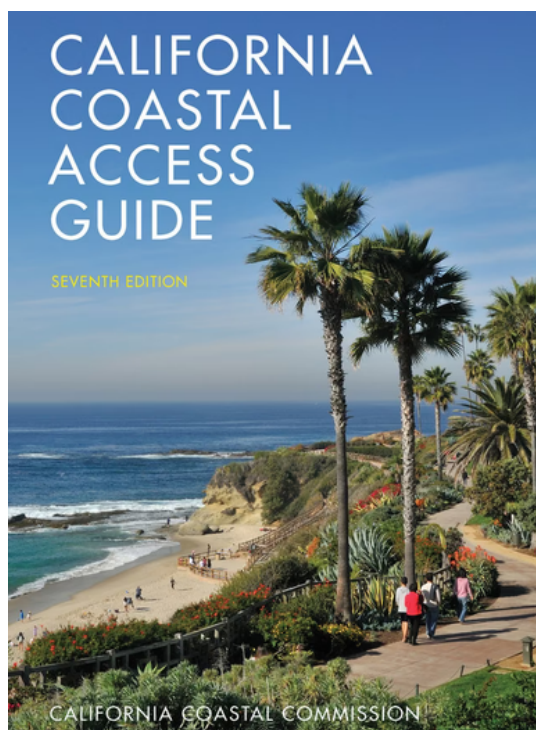
The Island Walk in Prince Edward Island is a walking or cycling route that loops around PEI. The total distance of the walk is currently 707 kms and it takes 32 days to complete if you walk 20-25 kms per day. The route takes you along the ocean, most of the Confederation trail, red dirt roads, beaches, and side roads. You will get a mix of inland and coastal sections that allow you to see both the Island at North Cape and East Point.

# COASTAL ACCESS RESOURCES



## [Shoreline Defender App](#)

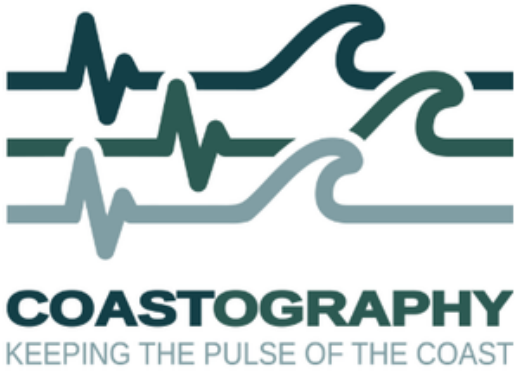
In Walton County, USA, beachgoers have often faced uncertainty about where public rights end and where private property begins. To help with this confusion, Shoreline Defender was built. It is an app that gives residents, visitors, and property owners a clear distinction between private property and open access. The app integrates Google Maps, precise shoreline overlays, and tide markers for accurate, location-specific insights for safe beach access.



## [The California Coastal Access Guide](#)

The 7th edition of the California Coastal Access Guide is considered to be an essential travel handbook for both new and regular visitors exploring California's 1,271 mile shoreline. It has up to date maps and information, and is a great guide for both beach goers, hikers, campers, swimmers, divers, surfers, and boaters. There are details on where to go, how to get there, and what facilities and environment to expect.

# COASTAL ACCESS RESOURCES



## [The Coastography Lab](#)

As part of the Environmental Science & Resource Management program at California State University Channel Islands, the Coastography Lab seeks to increase our understanding of how coastal communities can better steward their coastal resources, the lab also focuses on coastal access and surfing resources.



Ecology Action Centre  
East Coast Environmental Law  
Coastal Access Project

2705 Fern Lane  
Halifax, N.S., B3K 4L3