



Maine's Blue Economy

upwell collaborative

Mike Conathan
Managing Director, Upwell Collaborative

April 2026

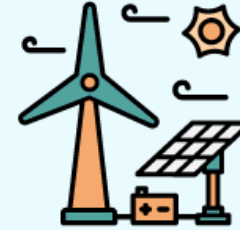
Blue Economy



uses smart shipping to lessen the impacts on the environment



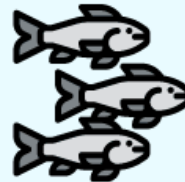
is inclusive and improves the lives of all



harnesses renewable energy



creates jobs, reduces poverty and ends hunger



is based on sustainable fisheries



takes action against illegal fishing

conserves marine life and oceans



protects coastal communities from the impacts of climate change

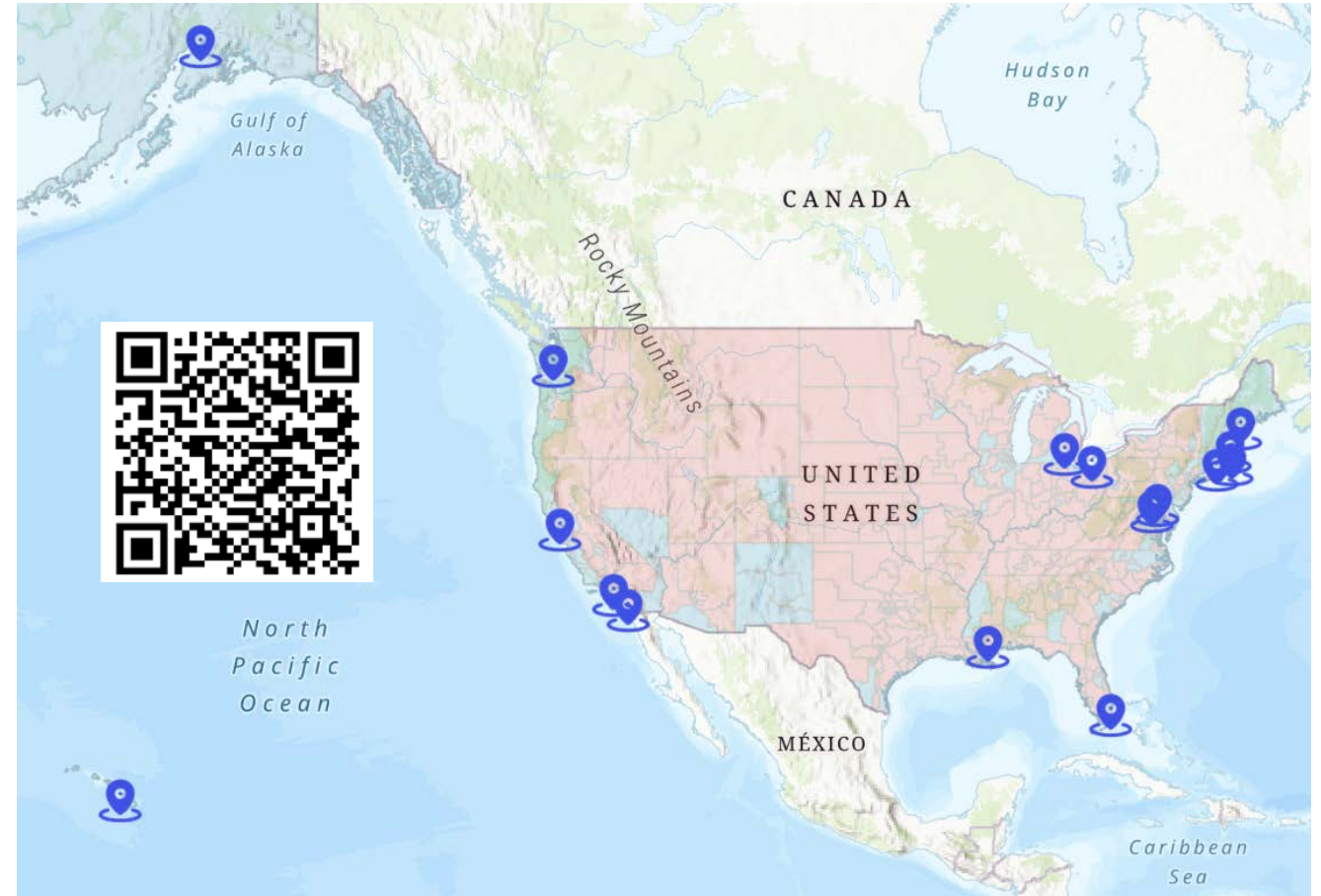


tackles marine litter and oceans pollution



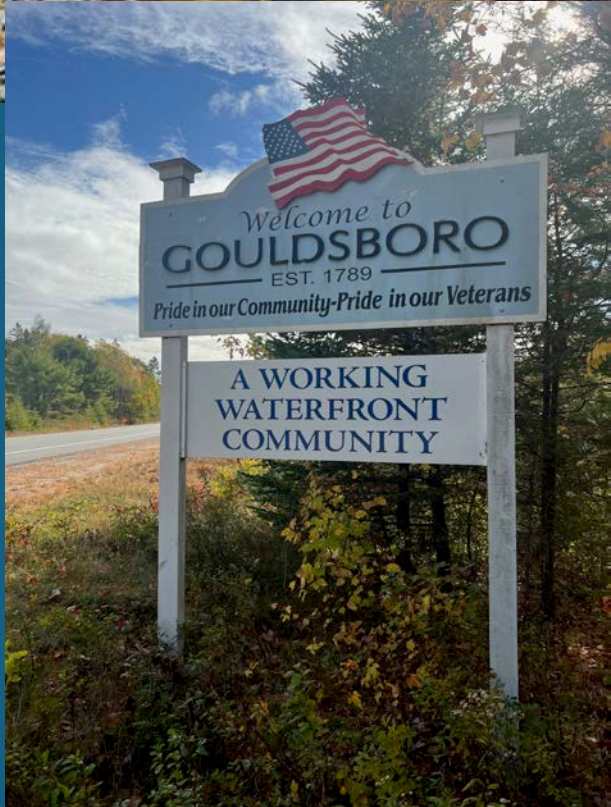
Where are they?

Ocean Clusters in the U.S.



upwell collaborative

Source: *Blue Tech Clusters of America (2023)*

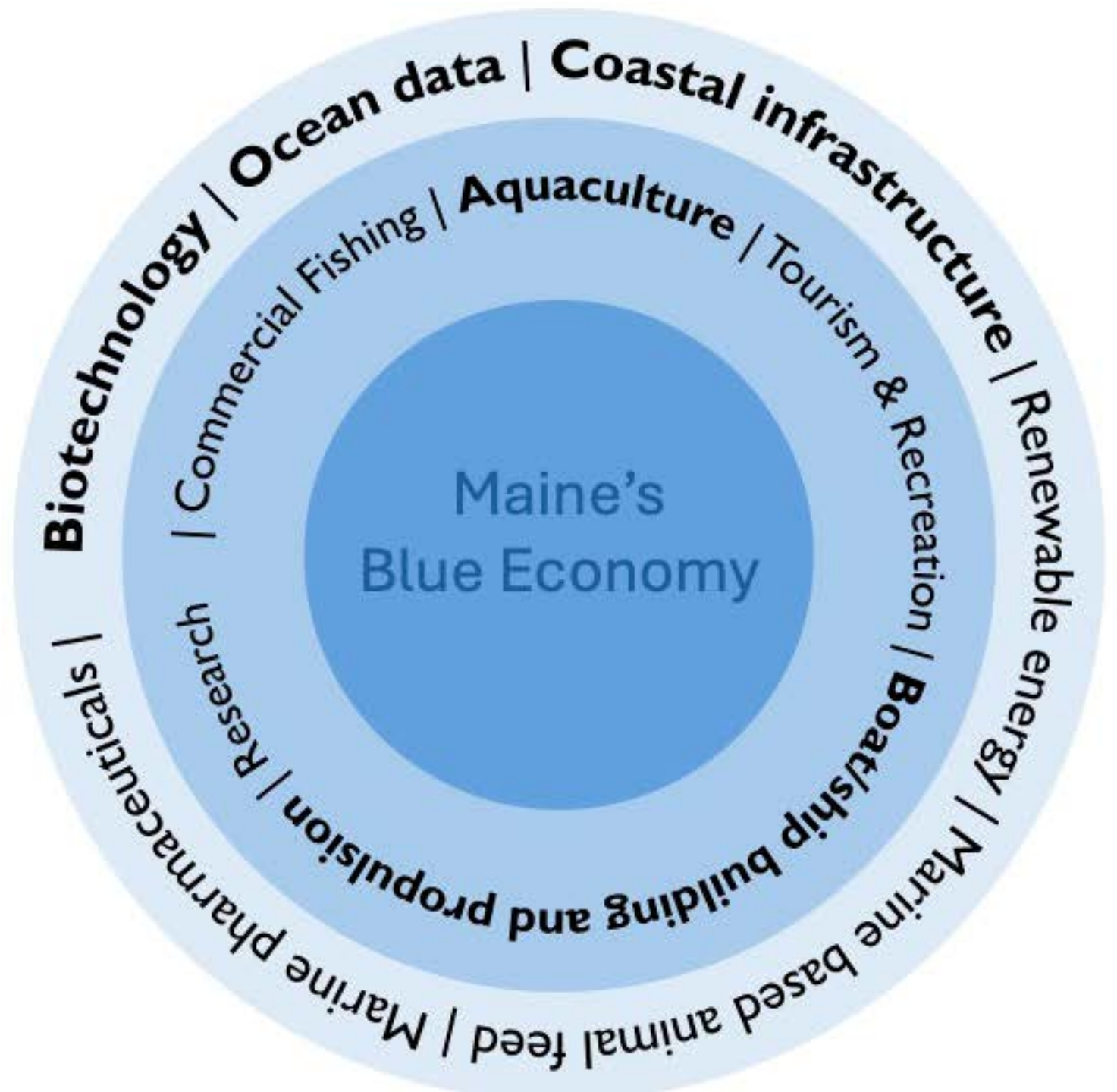


Industries in Maine's Blue Economy

Inner Circle:
“Legacy” industries

Outer Circle:
Emerging Opportunities

BOLD:
BETF identified priorities



Key Findings From Blue Economy Task Force

Growth Opportunity Sectors

- Aquaculture & Marine Vegetation
- Marine Biotech
- Ocean Data & Research
- Resilient Coastal Infrastructure
- Sustainable Boatbuilding & Marine Propulsion

Maine's Advantages

- Strategic Location
- Deepwater Ports
- Skilled Workforce
- Maritime Heritage
- Legacy of Sustainable Food Production
- Research & Innovation Hubs

Maine's Challenges

- Fragmented Strategy
- Regulatory Barriers
- Limited State & Federal Investment
- Climate Change Risks
- Workforce & Housing

Blue Economy Center: Three Core Functions

Inform

Gather and share data
Build tools (e.g.,
Ocean Economy
Database)
Track trends and
outcomes

Coordinate

Align agencies,
institutions, industry,
& communities
Reduce duplication
Support statewide
strategy

Strengthen

Build capacity
Help ideas grow into
businesses
Attract federal and
private investment