



# IMPACT REPORT

**BOLDLY  
NAVIGATING  
CHANGE**  
**2024**





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*as of December 2024*

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**COVER:** Max Burtis of Ferda Farms in Brunswick processes oysters aboard his solar-powered float, an improvement Max implemented with an Island Institute community impact grant. This shift to clean energy has streamlined operations, cut carbon emissions, and saved fuel costs. With our assistance, Max is now considering his next clean energy upgrade—electric work boats.



**WATCH HOW ISLAND INSTITUTE BROUGHT MAX'S  
RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS TO FRUITION**

## A Beacon of Forward-Looking Solutions

Guided by our mission and vision. Driven by the belief that the people most affected by challenges should be at the center of the solutions. Community innovation for a stronger Maine coast.

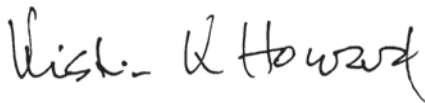
As we reflect on the past year at Island Institute, it's clear that we stand alongside Maine's island and coastal communities at a pivotal moment. Climate change, economic shifts, and demographic transitions are reshaping our coast. Our strength lies in navigating these challenges with the communities we serve. This partnership has always been, and always will be, the foundation of our work.

Our refreshed mission statement speaks directly to this: **We boldly navigate climate and economic change with island and coastal communities to expand opportunities and deliver solutions.** The word "with" is key—it reflects our core belief that meaningful solutions come from collaboration and shared vision. Through our programs, our grants, and our public policy efforts, we work, side by side, to build a more resilient future.

The time is now to innovate, together, to build a stronger coast of Maine. The challenges facing our island and coastal communities are urgent and accelerating, and so is the need for bold, practical solutions. We have the tools, the partnerships, and the vision to turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It will take all of us, working together, to ensure that Maine's island and coastal communities thrive for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Kristin Howard  
*Board Chair, Island Institute*



Kimberly A. Hamilton, Ph.D.  
*President, Island Institute*



### MISSION STATEMENT

We boldly navigate climate and economic change with island and coastal communities to expand opportunities and deliver solutions.

### VISION STATEMENT

Maine's island and coastal communities thrive in a rapidly changing world, leading as models of innovation.

# The Year At a Glance

## WHERE WE'VE WORKED

- Diversified Fisheries
- Climate-Resilient Working Waterfronts
- Clean Energy Transitions
- Community Climate Readiness
- Economic Resilience

### NORTH HAVEN

Supporting an Island Community with Solar Power

PAGE 6



### CASCO BAY

Educating on the Advantages of Aquaculture

PAGE 4



### ROCKLAND

Preparing an Electric-Savvy Marine Workforce

PAGE 6



## FUELING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Awarded **\$161,519** in scholarships to **93 students** from island communities

Awarded **\$452,924** in grants to **106 small businesses and organizations**

Generated **\$392,000** for **island and coastal artists** through Archipelago sales





### **BROOKLIN**

Adding Capacity to  
Small Communities

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### **MILBRIDGE**

Rebuilding with Resilience  
after Winter Storms

PAGE 4



### **SWAN'S ISLAND**

Strengthening Communities  
Through Partnership

PAGE 8

## **STANDING WITH COMMUNITY**

Worked with **2,029 individuals**, **545 organizations**,  
and **76 municipalities and municipal committees**

Served **185 communities** with projects,  
grants, and technical assistance

# We Lift Up Maine's Working Waterfront

Maine's coastal economy depends on the resilience of its fisheries and working waterfronts. To safeguard these critical resources, Island Institute is helping marine entrepreneurs diversify their businesses and invest in essential working waterfront infrastructure. As severe storms, shifting regulations, and volatile markets challenge our coastal businesses, we stand ready to strengthen livelihoods and ensure the long-term vitality of the Gulf of Maine.

## Rebuilding with resilience after winter storms

After back-to-back winter storms devastated the coast of Maine, Island Institute led immediate response and recovery efforts. Uniquely positioned to bring key partners and community members together, we assisted scores of impacted working waterfront businesses with wraparound support.

Just days after the storms, we convened a 'Storm Recovery and Resources' webinar with state and federal partners attended by **more than 700 participants**. Thanks to generous Island Institute donors, we supported 52 working waterfront businesses with Storm Response Business Resilience Grants to help cover the cost of immediate repairs and shoreside improvements.

We shared resources and distributed grants to where they were needed most. We also gathered stories and data to elevate the voices of those impacted to state and federal officials. With this information, our policy team helped inform Maine's largest-ever investment in working waterfront

**540** DOCKSIDE JOBS  
SUPPORTED

**1195** COMMERCIAL BOATS  
SUPPORTED



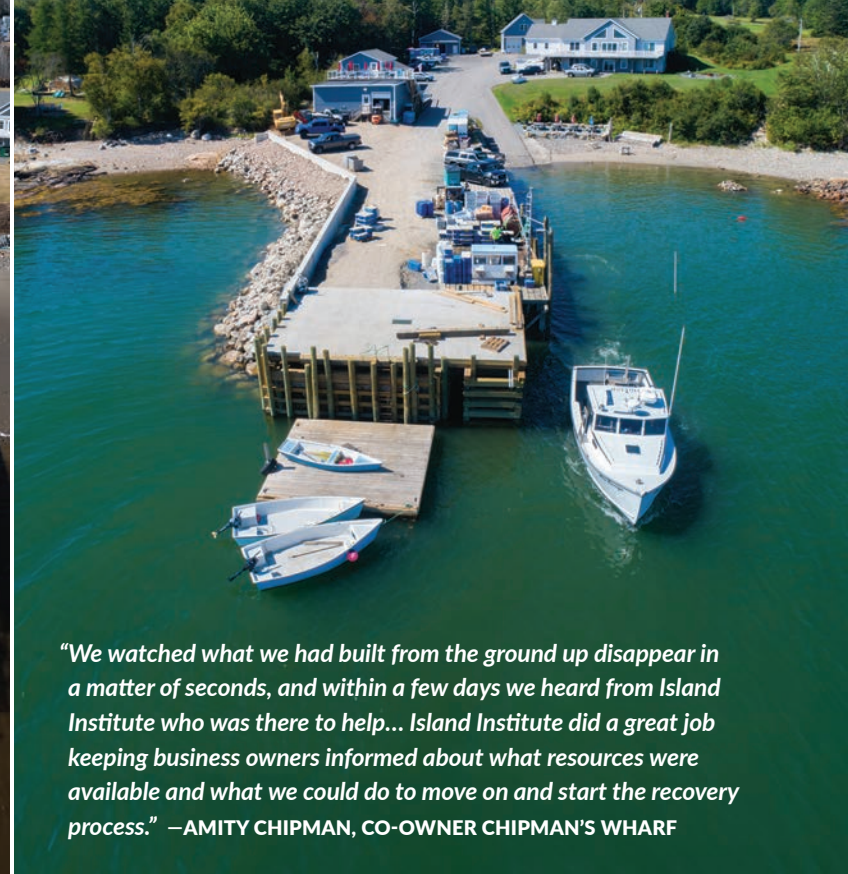
infrastructure, securing **\$22 million for protecting and strengthening our working waterfronts** through the state's \$50 million Infrastructure Adaptation Fund.

These storms underscored, more than ever, the urgent need for climate-resilient working waterfronts. Island Institute remains steadfast in this commitment, just as we were before the storms, working to secure a stronger, more resilient future for Maine's coast.

Chipman's Wharf, a family-owned business in Milbridge that supports twenty-five fishing boats, lost their wharf, bait shed, and 800 lobster traps in the storm. Chipman's Wharf is shown here in March 2024 and again in September after the first stage of their rebuilding process supported by Island Institute.



**HEAR THE CHIPMANS'  
STORM RECOVERY STORY**



*"We watched what we had built from the ground up disappear in a matter of seconds, and within a few days we heard from Island Institute who was there to help... Island Institute did a great job keeping business owners informed about what resources were available and what we could do to move on and start the recovery process." —AMITY CHIPMAN, CO-OWNER CHIPMAN'S WHARF*

**\$22M** TOTAL STATE COMMITMENT IN WORKING WATERFRONT FUNDING

**\$250K** VIA 52 GRANTS INTO 30 COMMUNITIES



## Educating on the advantages of aquaculture

Shellfish and seaweed aquaculture helps fishermen diversify their income, creates new opportunities for young Mainers, and **fosters a resilient future for our working waterfront communities**. To bolster support for this innovative, climate-friendly industry, we hosted a series of immersive educational farm tours for state legislators, harbor masters, town managers, and others to learn about aquaculture from local sea farmers.

Island Institute staff was joined by business owners, municipal officials, state legislators and political leaders on a tour around Casco Bay during kelp harvesting season.



# We Invest in Clean Energy Transitions

Island Institute is at the forefront of solving the challenges posed by climate change and rising energy costs. We champion clean solutions like marine electrification and solar-power technology to improve energy efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Through deep collaboration with communities and businesses, we're creating models of climate solutions for Maine's coast and beyond.

## Supporting an island community and its businesses with solar power

Maine island power grids are vulnerable to extreme weather, and power outages can be catastrophic for small businesses. Adam Campbell of North Haven Oyster Company operates a shellfish nursery that is dependent on consistent power. A severe power outage could mean a massive die-off of baby clams and oysters and a major hit to Adam's business.

Together, Island Institute and North Haven Oyster Company developed a **solar-powered microgrid system** with battery storage. Now, when the power goes out on the island, North Haven Oyster Company has renewable power stored to keep the shellfish nursery online.

## 17 COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED IN ELECTRIC BOAT COURSE





The 1000-watt solar array on top of North Haven Oyster Company's shack powers the shellfish nursery, their refrigerator, and a Starlink system that keeps Adam connected to the internet during power outages.



**LISTEN TO ADAM'S  
CLEAN ENERGY STORY**



**403** E-BOAT TRAINING  
HOURS PROVIDED

**OVER \$250K** CLEAN ENERGY SPARK! GRANTS  
DISTRIBUTED IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

## Preparing an electric-savvy marine workforce

As part of our efforts to decarbonize Maine's coast through marine electrification, we launched an accredited two-part course on electric boat functionality and maintenance in partnership with Kennebec Valley Community College, Mid-Coast School of Technology, Maine Electric Boat Company, and Bayside Marine. This course equips boat builders, engine mechanics, and people who work on the water with the technical skills to perform routine maintenance and repairs on electric boat motors.

Participants learn how to maintain and repair electric outboards at Mid-Coast School of Technology.

*"I enrolled in Island Institute's electric boat course because I want to move forward with electrifying the waterfront. I've always been interested in alternative and renewable sources of energy and how we can apply that to Maine's marine economy, and here at Mook Sea Farm we rely on the natural resources around us—the health of the river is the health of our business."* —RICH SMITH, FACILITIES MANAGER MOOK SEA FARM



# We Deliver Community- Driven Solutions

From strengthening local infrastructure to reducing energy costs and carbon emissions, Island Institute partners with residents to build resilience tailored to each community's unique challenges. Through initiatives like vulnerability assessments, community-led renewable energy projects, and resource-sharing networks, Island Institute equips communities with the tools, funding, and expertise they need to adapt and thrive. Working in island and coastal communities, Island Institute Fellows move economic, resiliency, and climate initiatives forward.



*"It's critical that the next generation becomes engaged in this fight. Young people can be very effective as climate ambassadors. A big concern of the committee has been trying to use climate action as an antidote for climate anxiety, and Grace has a great way of dealing with people and encouraging them to become active."* —DOUG HYLAN,  
BROOKLIN CLIMATE RESPONSE COMMITTEE

**492,590** HOURS OF FELLOWS COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT OVER 25 YEARS

## Strengthening communities through partnership

In her first year serving Swan's Island Historical Society as an Island Institute Fellow, Olivia Jolley joined the newly formed Community Resilience Committee (CRC) and brought her extensive grant writing experience and knowledge of community process to the group. Soon after, severe storms hit the Maine coast in January flooding roads, downing trees, and destroying wharfs. North Road flooded at the low lying, narrow spit of land called the carrying place, cutting off a third of the island from essential infrastructure, emergency services, and the ferry.



## Adding capacity to small communities

Island Institute Fellow Grace Carrier works with Brooklin's Climate Response Committee to reduce residents' carbon footprints and prepare for the ongoing effects of climate change. Central to their work is the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program which aims to make residents feel more comfortable in their homes while reducing energy costs. Grace and committee members spend 90 minutes getting to know residents and their homes before they prepare a report with suggestions for improvements, including contractors to do the work and rebates and tax incentives to help with the cost.

Grace is **connecting with the community**, running educational forums and community events, accessing state and national technical assistance programs, and working to lower municipal costs through the installation of heat pumps and electric vehicles at town-owned buildings. With Grace's support, the committee has more than doubled their reach in the community.

In the first year of her fellowship, Grace conducted 28 home visits in Brooklin, coaching homeowners on how to cut energy costs and their carbon footprints.



**48%** OF FELLOWS STAY IN MAINE FOLLOWING THEIR TWO-YEAR FELLOWSHIP

**\$406K** STATE FUNDS LEVERAGED FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING

The CRC partnered with Island Institute to secure funding through the Community Resilience Partnership program for a community vulnerability assessment to fully identify what the winter storms highlighted: areas of infrastructure at risk, and a path toward greater resiliency.



**HEAR HOW SWAN'S ISLAND IS PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Swan's Island Community Resilience Committee is led by the island's library director and former Island Institute Fellow Olivia Jolley (right) and includes first year Fellow Taylor Rossini (center).





# Financials

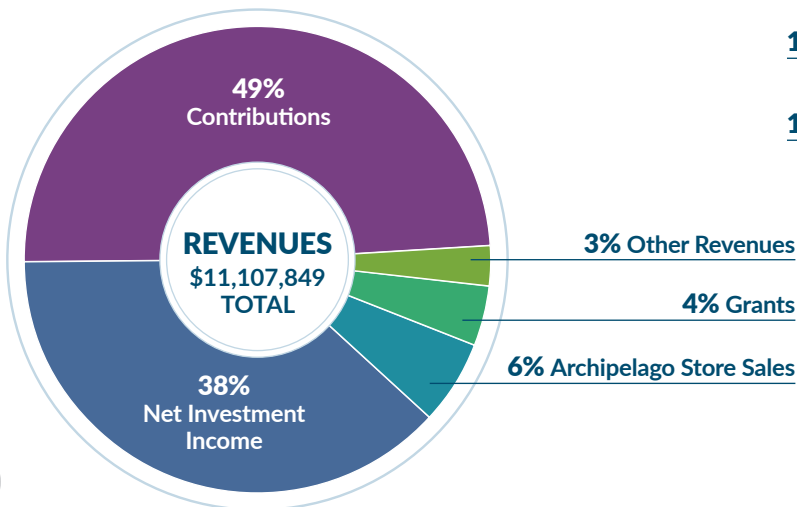
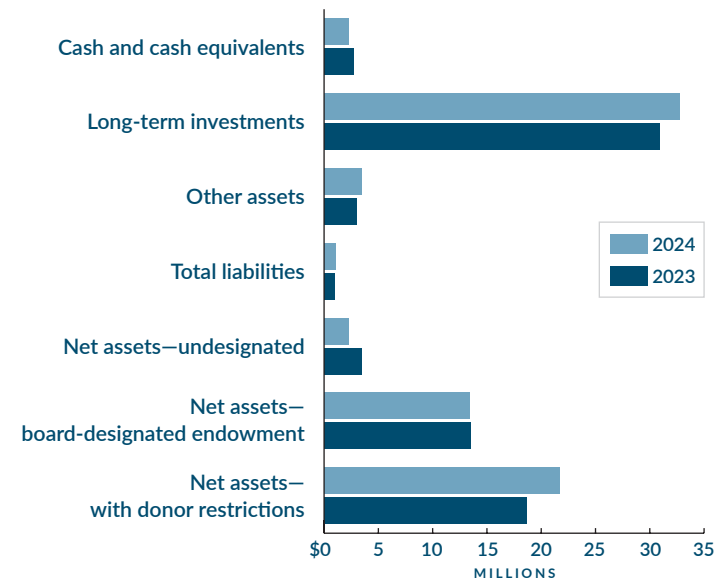
Island Institute's financial resources, generously provided through philanthropic support, have increased in value due to decades of careful curation and asset management. Approximately 85% of Island Institute's assets are represented by long-term investments, with annual draws from this portfolio providing a critical, supplementary revenue stream to our fundraising efforts. In fiscal 2024, these invested assets increased by over 12% in value.

This generous philanthropic support and careful asset management have led to a strong balance sheet with no organizational debt and important financial reserves, including board designated assets and a contingency fund. As a result, Island Institute devoted 74% of its spending toward programmatic work in fiscal 2024 (an increase from fiscal 2023). This solid financial foundation will enable Island Institute to withstand the fluctuations of global, regional, and local financial markets and continue providing critical support in response to the issues facing Maine communities for many years to come.

For more information, please contact **Pete Rand, Chief Financial Officer**, at [prand@islandinstitute.org](mailto:prand@islandinstitute.org) or by phone at (207) 209-4857.

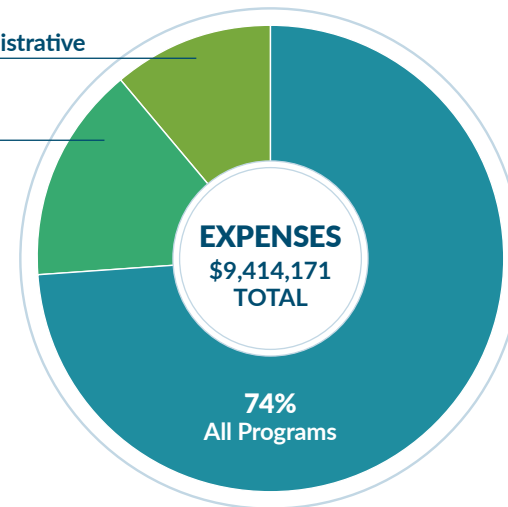
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023



**11% General and Administrative**

**15% Philanthropy**



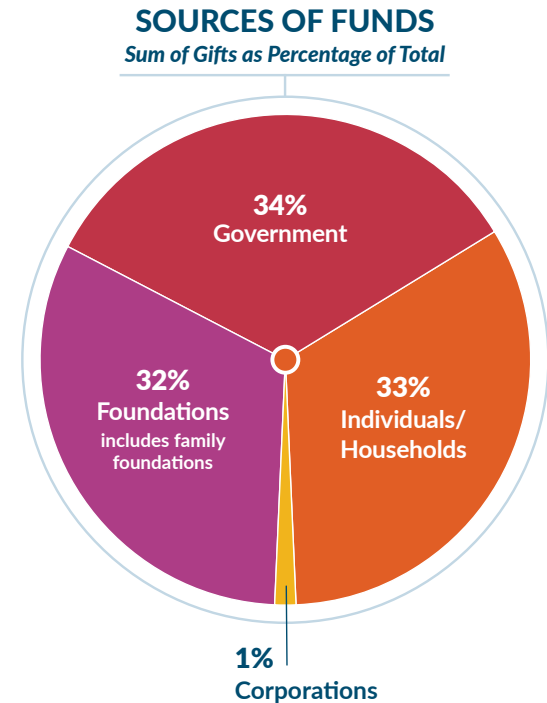
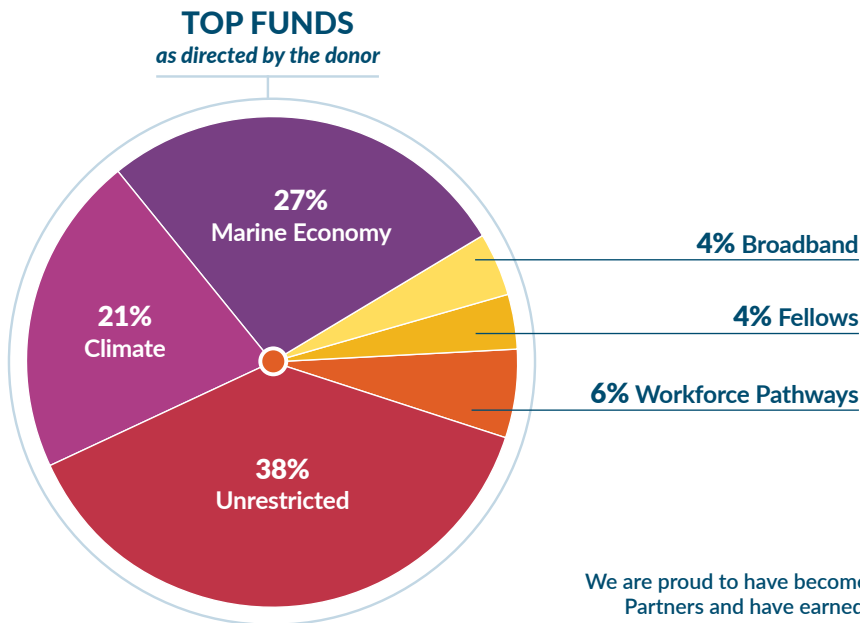
# The Impact of Philanthropy

## Our members help build a stronger Maine coast

At Island Institute, our members and donors are essential to everything we do. Every philanthropic dollar makes a huge difference in our ability to advocate for Maine's island and coastal communities. Without the support of our members, corporate donors, and grantmakers, the impact demonstrated in this report would not be possible. Thank you!

By giving to Island Institute, you also contribute more than dollars; you join a remarkable community of dedicated supporters whose shared sense of purpose helps inform our strategic goals. Your vote of support for our work and your demonstrated commitment to the Maine coast inspire us and fuels our efforts to foster impactful change in small communities.

To learn about specific philanthropic needs and explore ways your support can make a difference, reach out to our Philanthropy Advocates! Email [membership@islandinstitute.org](mailto:membership@islandinstitute.org).



**GIVE TODAY!**

We are proud to have become part of the 1% for the Planet network of Environmental Partners and have earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid in 2024.



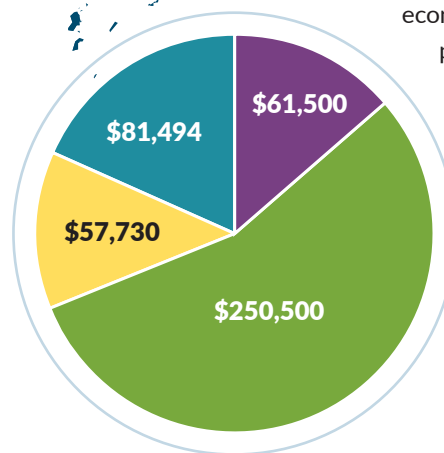
# Catalyzing Climate and Economic Solutions

## GLENN FUND DISBURSEMENTS

- Business Resilience
- Storm Response
- Community Climate Resilience
- Clean Energy

## 2024 Glenn Fund Grantmaking

Endowed by a generous gift from the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation, along with the operational support of several additional donors, the Glenn Fund has provided nearly \$2M in financial resources to vital economic resilience and community infrastructure projects since 2017. In 2024 alone, the Glenn Fund disbursed **over \$450,000 into 52 communities** to aid wharf rebuilds, municipal climate committees, marine electrification projects, critical island businesses, and many other beneficiaries whose work aligns deeply with Island Institute's mission and vision. Thank you to all the generous donors who have supported our continuing effort to catalyze climate and economic change in Maine's island and coastal communities.



For additional information, please contact  
Alex Kravitz, Director of Program Impact and  
Glenn Fund at [akravitz@islandinstitute.org](mailto:akravitz@islandinstitute.org).



Ryan Maker and his son Luke are recipients of a Glenn Fund award that was used to fund a solar-powered electric outboard motor for the family skiff. Luke uses the motor to check for keepers in his student lobster traps.



HEAR HOW RYAN AND LUKE  
USED THEIR GLENN FUND AWARD





Chipman's Wharf in Milbridge lost its dock in the January 10, 2024 storm. The Chipman family was one of the first recipients of Island Institute Storm Response Grants, helping them begin to build back quickly in preparation for the 2024 lobster season. Learn more on page 4.



ISLAND  
INSTITUTE

386 Main Street | P. O. Box 648 | Rockland, Maine 04841-0648  
(207) 594-9209 | [islandinstitute.org](http://islandinstitute.org)