TO: Casco Bay Lines Board of Directors

FROM: Ben Dinsmore, GM

DATE: Nov 19, 2026

RE: November Update

Dear Board,

Here is November's GM report.

Freight Rates:

The Finance Committee will be resuming freight rate discussions at its next meeting Tuesday, November 24th. The last meeting included in-depth discussions on heating fuel, building supplies, and down bay vehicles. There have been two new public comments received since the last workshop. The latest proposal, presentation and public comments can be found on the Finance Committee Meetings page on the Community Hub. You can also view them by clicking on these links:

October 6th Presentation

Freight Rate Proposal Comments Received through November 18, 2026

Battery Steele:

We had a constructive meeting with the parties involved with remedying the ballast issue. While no agreement has been reached, informal discussions are continuing as we work toward an agreeable solution.

Down Bay Vessel:

Bristol Harbor Group provided an update on the Down Bay Vessel at last week's Ops Committee. Topics discussed included whether the vessel should have thrusters, what accommodations should be made (if any) to allow for an upgrade to hybrid technology in the future, and general arrangements of the vessel.

MaineDOT/Peaks Transfer Bridge:

MaineDOT still plans to start the Peaks Island ramp work on March 8th, 2027. As mentioned previously, the state has budgeted up to $100,000 to cover barge service over this period, which is expected to be 30 days.

Vessel Drydocks:

Bay Mist: The Bay Mist is still scheduled for drydock in December. Rockland Marine won the bid and the vessel will be serviced in Rockland.

Machigonne: The Machigonne is schedule for drydock in February. We are still trying to coordinate this with the MaineDOT's work on the transfer bridge to make the most efficient use of supplemental barge service fees in the event the Battery Steele is not in service. RFPs are due on October 29th and the winning shipyard will be announced shortly after.

Aucocisco: The Aucosisco is scheduled for dry dock at the end of March/early April. The RFP is currently being prepared for this work.

New Text Alert Program:

The District has switched over to a new Text Alert provider starting November 1.

Sleigh Mist/Holiday Cruises:

I am pleased to share that two of the three Holiday cruises have already sold out and the third is well on its way to selling out as well.

2027 Budget Planning:

As we look ahead to 2027, I will be looking for the board's feedback on initiatives that will require financial support to incorporate into the budget. Items may include an independent schedule analysis, and independent freight handling analysis, E-ticketing, etc. We plan to have a first look at the 2027 budget at next week's Finance Committee meeting.

As always, I welcome any questions or feedback from the board. Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

