APPENDIX E
Field Guide to Seaside Plants & Coastal Organisms

(Reprinted with permission from University of Maine Cooperative Extension.)
Bayberry
*Myrica pensylvanica*
2-4' shrub, glossy leaves, grey-white, waxy nuts; shores, edge of woods

Poison Ivy
*Rhus radicans*
glossy leaves divided into three leaflets, grey-white berries, shrub or vine

Rugosa Rose
*Rosa rugosa*
shrub, large pink or white flower in July to October, bright orange, rose hips, thorny stems

White Spruce
*Picea glauca*
tree, bluish-green needles ½-¾" long, pungent odor when crushed, twigs not downy or hairy, edge of woods
Juniper
*Juniperus communis*
shrub, needles in whorls of three, one side white, blue-black berries with white powder, edge of woods

Bearberry
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
creeping evergreen shrub, flowers white May-June, fruit red, forms mat on sand and rocks near ocean

Black Crowberry
*Emetrum nigrum*
small flowers, needle-like leaves, fruit black, forms mat on rocks near ocean

Beach Pea
*Lathyurus japonicus*
violet or purple flowers in June to September, beaches, shores
Seaside Goldenrod
*Solidago sempervirens*
yellow flowers in August to October, salt marshes, shores

Orach
*Atriplex patula*
tiny green flowers in August to October, salt marshes, shores

Sea Rocket
*Cakile edentula*
pale lavender blossoms in July to September, rocket-shaped seed capsule, dunes

Coast Blite
*Chemopodium rubrum*
small red flowers in clusters in August to October, bright red in fall, salt marshes, shores
Glasswort
*Salicornia sp.*
green turning orange to red in fall, succulent, jointed stems, mat forming in salt marshes

Sea Lavender
*Limonium carolinianum*
light purple flowers in July to October, salt marshes

Seaside Plantain
*Plantago oliganthos*
flowers small, whitish spike, leaves linear, triangular in cross section, shores, salt marshes
Beach Grass
*Ammophila breviligulata*

Stems rise stiffly from creeping rhizomes, beaches, dunes

Chairmaker's Rush
*Scirpus americanus*

Brown spikelets, triangular stem, June to September, brackish shores

Salt Marsh Grass
*Spartina alterniflora*

Leaves flat and tough, spikelets alternating, salt marshes and tidal creeks, roots covered at high tide

Salt Meadow Grass
*Spartina patens*

Tousled appearing grass, dominant plant in salt marshes, generally above high tide mark
Spike Grass
*Distichlis spicata*
leaf blades curled, grows with salt meadow grass in salt marshes

Black Grass
*Juncus gerardi*
rush family, purple-brown seed capsule, salt marshes

Cattail
*Typha latifolia*
flowers pistillate yellow (upper), and staminate brown (lower) in May to June, back of marsh in fresh water
Old Man's Beard
*Ulnea barbata*
lichen, greyish, yellow and green, growing on branches of trees throughout year

False Heather
*Hudsonia tomentosa*
flower bright yellow in May to July, low shrubby plant, beaches, shores

Hollow Green Weeds
*Enteromorpha intestinalis*
green algae, upper tide pools

Sea Lettuce
*Ulva lactuca*
green algae, upper tide pools
Bladder Wrack
_Fucus vesiculosus_
brown algae, called rockweed, dominant in rockweed zone

Knotted Wrack
_Ascophyllum nodosum_ (to 2 ft.)
brown algae, called rockweed, dominant in rockweed zone

Eelgrass
_Zostera marina_
green algae, below low tide in shallow water growing in sand or mud

Codium Green Fleece
_Codium fragile_
velvety textured green algae, erect, attached to shells and stones near low tide and in tidal pools
Irish Moss
*Chondrus crispus*
red algae, from definite zone between rockweeds and kelp at low tide line

Sea Colander (to 6 ft., sometimes twice that)
*Agarum cribrosum*
attached to rocks by holdfasts at or below low tide, brown algae

— Hollow Stemmed Kelp
*Laminaria longicruris*

attached to rocks by holdfasts at or below low tide, brown algae

Tufted Red Weed
*Gigartina stellata*
red algae, form definite zone between rockweeds and kelp at low tide line (to 3 inches)
Coral Weed
Corallina officinalis
segmented, fan-shaped tufts from deep turf on rocks and under large algae (to 1 1/2 inches)

Dulse (to 1 ft.)
Rhodymenia palmata
red algae, Irish moss zone into deep water

Green Sea Urchin
Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis
tide pools and deep water (to 3 inch diameter)

Laver (to 1 ft.)
Porphyra sp.
red algae, paper-thin, nearly transparent, in tidal pools and near low tide line

Sand Dollar
Echinarachnius parma
lower intertidal zone and more than one-half mile deep on sandy bottoms (to 3 inch diameter)
Brittle Star

*Ophiopholis aculeata*

among stones and debris in large tide pools and
subtidally on gravelly bottoms

(disk to $\frac{1}{2}$ in., arms about 5 times longer)

Common Sea Star

*Asterias vulgaris*

tide pools, rocky or sandy bottoms (to 8 inches)

Sea Cucumber

*Cucumaria frondosa* (to 7 inches)
tide pools, intertidal zone, subtidally down to
more than 1,000 feet
Common Slipper Shell
*Crepidula fornicata* (to 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches)
attached to almost any available hard object in lower intertidal zone

Barnacle
*Balanus balanoides* (to \(\frac{1}{2}\) inch)
on shells, rocks, rockweeds, and pilings intertidally, subtidally into shallow waters

Limpet
*Acmaea testudinalis* (to 1 inch)
on rocks in intertidal and subtidal areas

New England Dog Whelk
*Nassarius triquetrus* (to \(\frac{3}{4}\) inch)
subtidally in quiet waters on sand or grassy flats

Periwinkle
*Littorina littorea* (to \(\frac{1}{2}\) inch)
intertidally attached to any solid substratum

Dog Winkle
*Thais lapillus* (to \(\frac{1}{2}\) inch)
tertidal and subtidal zone
Northern Moon Shell
*Lunatia heros* (to 4 inches)
on beaches and subtidally to depths of 1,200 feet

Jelly Fish
*Aurelia aurita* (to 10 inches)
free swimming, found washed up on nearly all beaches; color ranges from white to pink and orange

Crumb of Bread Sponge
*Halichondria panicea*
colonies can extend over several feet
in colonies encrusting walls or crevices in shaded tide pools from lower intertidal to subtidal zone

Striped Anemone
(to ¾ inch) *Haliplanella luciae*
on rocks and pilings intertidally and in estuaries and other protected waters; column dark green with lighter colored stripes

Rough Sea Squirt
*Slyela partita* (to 1½ inch)
often in clumps in lower intertidal zone

Frilled Anemone
*Metridium senile*
on pilings, crevices, and pools intertidally; most common anemone; column orange, brown, or mottled; many fine tentacles (to 4 inches tall)
Fan Worm
*Sabella* sp.
lower intertidal to subtidal zone on pilings and in rock crevices
(to 1½ in.)

Clam Worm
*Nereis* sp. (to 8 in.)
upper intertidal to subtidal zone down to 500 feet; common bait worm; coppery brown or red

Tube Worm
*Spirorbis* sp.
intertidally on seaweeds or stones; deposits hard, limy tubes formed into coils
(to 3 in.)

Blood Worm
*Glycera* sp.
intertidally in mud flats and among organic debris mixed with sand and subtidally down to 1,000 feet; common bait worm; palely translucent body allows internal fluids to show through (to 15 in.)
Blue Mussel
*Mytilus edulis*
intertidal to subtidal zones attached to rocks and pilings (to 4 inches)

Soft Shell Clam
*Mya arenaria* (to 4 inches)
intertidal to subtidal zones in sandy or muddy areas

Horse Mussel
*Modiolus modiolus*
subtidal zone and deeper waters (to 6 inches)

Common Razor Clam
*Ensis directus*
lower intertidal to subtidal zone in sand or mud; often in colonies (to 10 inches)

Deep Sea Scallop
*Placopecten magellanicus*
low tide line down to 50 feet on a variety of bottoms; often a beach shell (to 8 in.)
Hermit Crab
*Pagurus longicarpus* (to approx. ¾ in. long)
tide pools and intertidal rocks, lives in discarded
shells of other animals and continues to seek larger
ones as it grows

Green Crab (to 3 inches)
*Carcinus maenas*
under rocks in intertidal zone

Rock Crab (to 5½ inches)
*Cancer irroratus*
under rocks in intertidal zone

Atlantic Horseshoe Crab (to 2 ft. including tail)
*Limulus polyphemus*
along intertidal beaches and in subtidal waters
Beach or Sand Flea (to 1 1/2 inch)
*Orchestia* sp.
under dead seaweed and other debris at or above high tide mark, leap erratically when disturbed, olive to reddish brown

Sand Shrimp (to 2 1/4 in.)
*Crangon septemspinosa*
lower intertidal zone to subtidal zone down to 300 feet or more; varies from almost colorless to mottled brownish or black

American Lobster (to 3 ft.)
*Homarus americanus*
subtidal waters to edge of continental shelf