

## MaineDOT's Bridge Inspection Program

- MaineDOT is responsible for inspecting 3,700 bridges every two years (approximately 1,400 state owned and 400 municipal annually) these are all the state-owned and municipal-owned bridges on public roads.
- MaineDOT inspects all bridges at a maximum of every 24 months, unless a finding determines that a more frequent inspection is required.
- There are 185 bridges (5%) that are inspected every 12 months due to findings from previous inspections.
- Underwater inspections for scour and structural integrity are conducted every 60 months unless a finding determines that a more frequent inspection is required.
- Inspections are conducted to the national standards in the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) as required in Title 29 CFR. The NBIS program was developed from engineering judgment and past experiences due to earlier bridge failures. NBIS sets national policy on bridge inspection frequency, inspector qualifications, report formats, and inspection and rating procedures. Results of inspections are provided to FHWA annually.
- All inspection reports are reviewed and approved by a professional engineer. Capital, repair work and bridge load postings are driven by information from these inspections.
- The Bridge Inspection Program has 5 full-time and 2 part-time bridge inspectors, a full-time manager of the underwater dive team, 20 part-time underwater inspectors, and an under-bridge crane to gain access to difficult to reach components. The inspection program is managed by a professional engineer.
- When a critical finding is identified, the department has a procedure for notification and addressing the problem.