

Portland's Bottomless Pit: The Hefty Price of Keeping Sewage Out of our Water

Please look through these questions *before* you read the article from the Bangor Daily News, and answer them with a partner once you have finished the article.

Explain what a CSO is. When do CSO's occur?

Between 1993 and 2014 the City of Portland spent _____ on sewer system fixes, and between now and 2030 the City plans to spend another _____ on infrastructure to try to fix the CSO problem.

Once the sewer system fixes have been completed, how much sewage will the system continue to pour into Casco Bay every year?

Why do you think that fixing this sewage problem is so difficult?

Identify three different pollutants that get carried into Casco Bay by Portland's CSO's.

What was Portland's total CSO discharge in the year 2011?

What was this number in the year 2006?

Where did all of Portland's sewage go before the 1970's?

We live in the Presumpscot River watershed. According to Sean Mahoney, how polluted was the Presumpscot River 20-30 years ago?

What actions in the early 1990's pushed Portland to take steps to limit its sewage runoff?

Do you think that Portland would have taken steps to clean up its sewage problem if the federal Clean Water Act did not exist?

What is the goal of Tier III of Portland's CSO project?

How does Portland plan to raise the money to pay for this next project? Do you think that this is fair?

In your opinion, will Portland need to develop and implement a Tier IV to its CSO plan? Explain.