



Fisheries
& Habitat
Conservation



Key Partners:

- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- South Carolina Aquarium



Cypress dominated floodplain along coastal blackwater river in SC, targeted for permanent protection by conservation easements and fee-title acquisition. USFWS photos.



Tidal freshwater wetlands including managed wetland impoundments and associated uplands along a coastal river in SC, targeted for restoration and enhancement as well as permanent protection by conservation easements. USFWS photos.



USFWS photos.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

Celebrating Habitat in South Carolina

- The Service and NOAA Fisheries are prescribing upstream and downstream fish passage facilities at the Augusta Canal Hydropower Project. Upstream passage at the Augusta Diversion Dam would provide access to an additional 13 miles of mainstem river and approximately 35 miles of spawning and maturation habitat.
- The Star Evivva Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration provided the construction of a bird rehabilitation center in the state that will have the capability to provide immediate response when future oil spills occur in the state.
- The Environmental Contaminants Program conducted 145 consultations for the protection of endangered species under the Clean Water Act from 2002 to 2004, and provided technical assistance on the effects of hazardous chemicals to wildlife at 11 Superfund sites. The program participated in oil spill drills and responded to a spill where recovery of birds was necessary.
- The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has engaged in 2 habitat improvement projects, with 61 acres of habitat improved in 2004.
- The Service spearheaded the creation of the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), which is comprised of State and Federal partnerships that extend beyond the traditional boundaries of resource management agencies. It has established commitments by State fishery resource agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and representation from the coastal Councils and Commissions to work for the benefit of the resource. The SARP now has 16 signatories, including the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.
- The National Fish Hatchery System stocks more than 5 million fish annually to support anadromous fish restoration in the coastal rivers of the South Atlantic and address imperiled fish species declines.
- The Coastal Program provides both technical assistance and funding to assist with the implementation of a landscape-level conservation program through public-private partnerships within the lower coastal plain of South Carolina. Since the early 1990's, over 12,000 acres of coastal habitat has been protected primarily through donated conservation easements on private lands, and over 2,700 acres of coastal habitat has been restored or enhanced for migratory birds, anadromous fish and a host of State and Federal listed species.
- The Service is involved in the restoration and recovery of the Robust Redhorse sucker. The Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee was established—a consensus group with the goal of restoring the fish in the waters of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. The Committee has thirteen signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding with more than sixty parties interested in the restoration.

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