

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Massachusetts

Issues

- Massachusetts contains 1,500 miles of coastline and many thousands of acres of sandy and rocky beaches, salt marshes, and estuarine and bay habitat that support a large and active commercial and recreational fishery.
- Coastal hazardous waste and Superfund sites threaten natural resources and recreational uses.
- Active oil transportation routes contribute to the potential for oil spills in sensitive coastal habitats.

What we do

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.



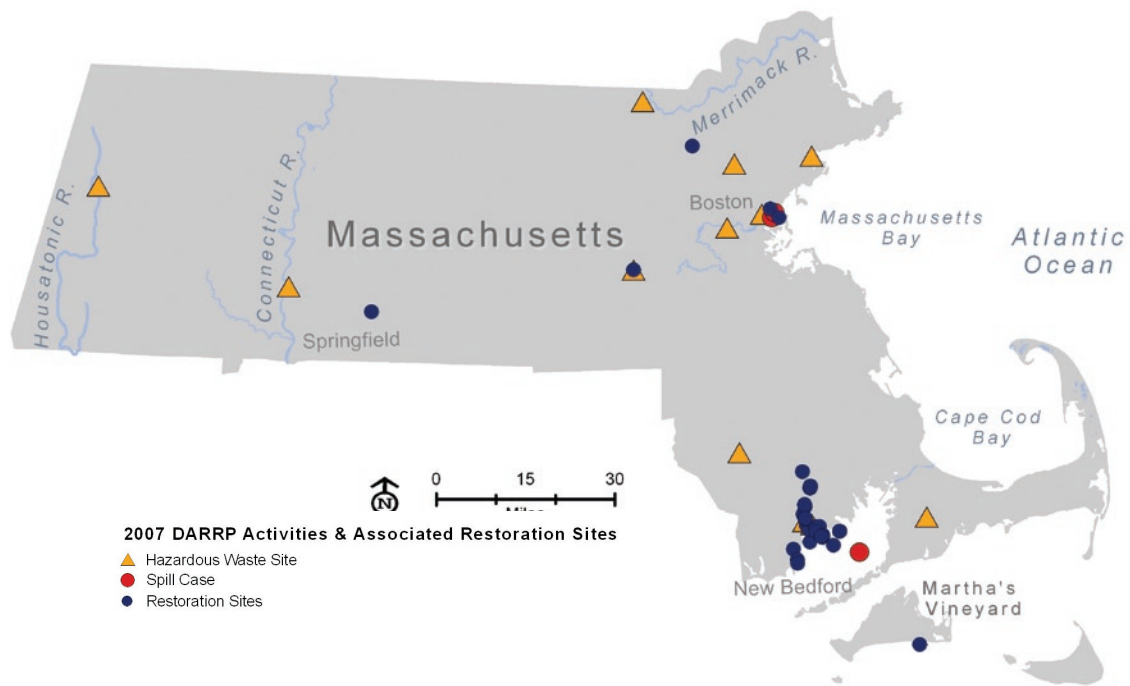
Buzzards Bay/Bouchard Oil Spill - see case highlights.



New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 318 acres of marine habitats and 676 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats in Massachusetts (completed and planned activities).
- Protection or improvement of habitat for more than 6,000 nesting pairs of birds (including some threatened and endangered species).
- Settlements have resulted in 42 protection and restoration projects in Massachusetts.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 20 hazardous waste sites.



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site – Permanently preserved 633 acres of coastal and riverine habitat; restored 7.5 acres of salt marsh and planning an additional 120 acres of salt marsh restoration (*bottom photo on page 1*); restored two acres of eelgrass beds; restored fish passage to 200 acres of spawning habitat and planning an additional 3.8 miles of fish passage restoration; restored shellfish to selected areas of New Bedford Harbor; provided enhancement and management of three Buzzards Bay islands significant for common and roseate tern nesting; refurbished one fishing pier; and created two recreational parks. Worked with EPA to develop and implement source control and cleanup of PCB-contaminated wetlands and harbor sediments and mitigative measures.
- Atlas Tack Site, Fairhaven – Removed metal-contaminated marsh soils and achieved the restoration of 5.5 acres of salt marsh and fresh water wetlands.
- Island End River Former Coal Tar Facility, Everett – Achieving protective cleanup for approximately 4 acres of contaminated estuary; planning 4 acres of salt marsh restoration.
- Buzzards Bay/Bouchard Oil Spill – Conducting a cooperative natural resource damage assessment and restoration planning effort in response to the 2003 oil spill that resulted in oiling of approximately 98 miles of shoreline in the Buzzards Bay area and injury to various natural resources and recreational uses (*top photo on page 1*).

For further information about DARRP, please visit
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

