

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Maine

Issues

- Maine contains 4,568 miles of shoreline that includes sandy and rocky beaches, salt marshes, and estuarine and bay habitat that supports a large and active lobster fishery and provides recreational and economic benefits for millions of people.
- Coastal hazardous waste and Superfund sites threaten natural resources and recreational uses .
- The Port of Portland is the third largest oil port on the East Coast and supplies fuel oil and gasoline for portions of New England and Atlantic Canada. The fuel terminals on the Fore River have been the source of several spill events. The coastal economy is highly dependent on tourism and commercial fishing, both of which may be adversely affected by oil spills.

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.



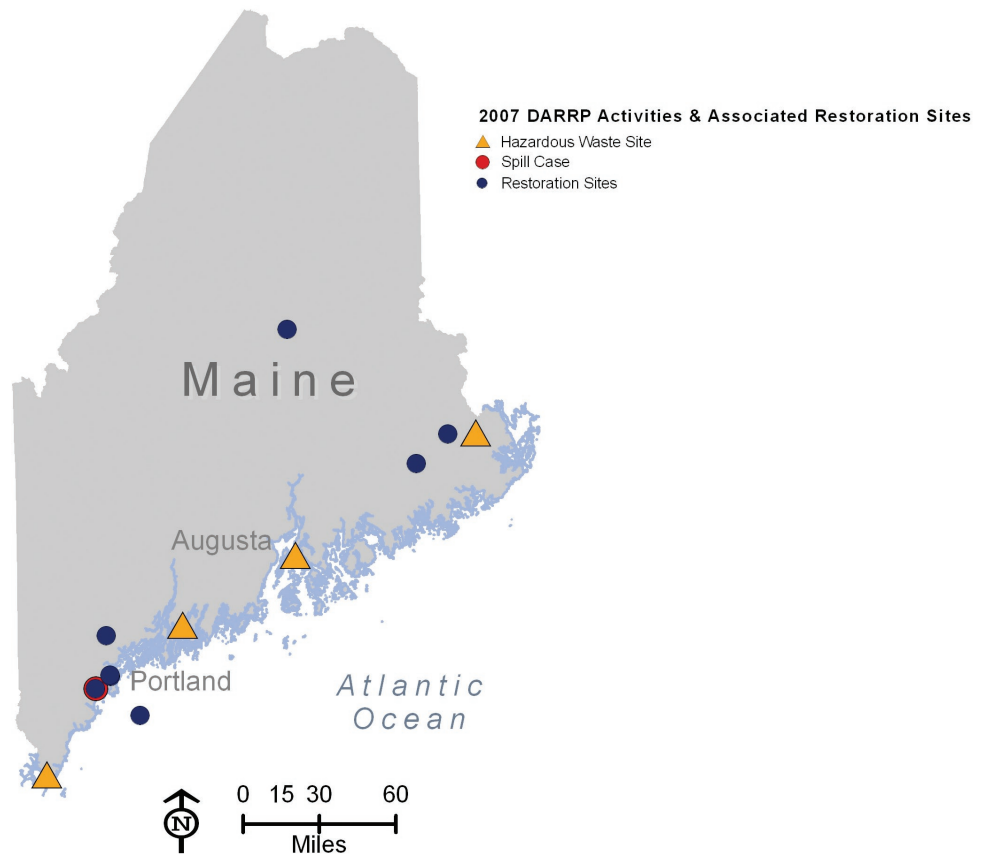
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 2 acres of marine habitats and 42 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats in Maine (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 6 protection and restoration projects in Maine.
- Clean up actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 7 hazardous waste sites.



Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (former), Wiscasset - see case highlights.



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery – Worked cooperatively with Navy, EPA, and co-trustees to remediate a landfill sector and to construct a 2.2 acre salt marsh (*top photo on page 1*).
- Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (former), Wiscasset – Removed contamination from the adjacent estuary and created salt marsh habitat (*bottom photo on page 1 of sampling*); restoring over 200 acres of salt marsh in the area formerly known as Sherman Lake.
- Julie N Oil Spill – Acquired Flag Island, which is a breeding island for eiders; constructed a mile-long trail along the Fore River estuary; and purchased stormwater management equipment to reduce contaminant discharges to Portland Harbor. The trustees are investigating development of a wetland restoration project in the Casco Bay area.

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

