



Gulf of Maine Coastal Program

Caring for Our Coastal Habitats

Overview

The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program builds voluntary partnerships to identify, protect and restore nationally important fish and wildlife habitat in the Gulf of Maine watershed. Currently, our activities focus almost exclusively in the state of Maine. Our partners include other Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) offices, other federal and state agencies, statewide conservation groups, local land trusts and watershed associations, industry representatives and willing landowners. Together, we:

- Identify and map important fish and wildlife habitat,
- Permanently protect high-value habitat through fee and easement acquisition, and
- Restore habitat for migratory birds, diadromous fish and listed species on coastal nesting islands, wetlands and rivers.

We have helped provide \$43.8 million in federal funds through nationally competitive FWS-linked grant programs, and leveraged those dollars with more than \$162.7 million in partner funds.



Coastal Program Projects Completed

FROM 1994-2006

Restored 17,300 acres at:

- 77 coastal wetlands
- 69 river restoration sites (including 11 dam removals and 18 fish passage projects)
- 12 coastal seabird nesting islands
- 6 native grasslands

Permanently protected 1.68 million acres at:

- 58 coastal nesting islands
- 196 coastal wetlands & buffers
- 21 uplands
- 65 areas wild Atlantic salmon river sites
- 4 landscape-scale Northern Forest sites

IN FY 2006

Restored 337 acres at:

- 11 coastal nesting islands

Permanently protected 19,847 acres at:

- 10 coastal wetlands
- 3 coastal uplands
- 2 Atlantic salmon riparian corridors
- 2 coastal islands

In FY07, we are identifying, planning, designing, fundraising and/or monitoring 26 upcoming on-the ground projects.

Priorities

The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program uses its GIS and database management capabilities, as well as biological expertise to:

IDENTIFY and ASSESS:

- high value habitat for 91 priority trust species watershed-wide,
- nationally significant coastal nesting islands in Maine,
- spawning and rearing habitat in Maine's Atlantic salmon rivers, and
- current and historic habitat for diadromous fish in Maine.

PROTECT (fee/easement acquisition):

- coastal nesting islands,
- coastal wetlands & buffers, and
- riparian corridors adjacent to Atlantic salmon rivers.

RESTORE:

- coastal seabird nesting islands,
- coastal wetlands & buffers (i.e. invasive species control), and
- diadromous fish rivers (ie. restore habitat diversity, re-establish river connectivity by removing dams and installing fishways).

For More Information

For more information about the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, call 207-781-8364 or visit our website: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/gulfofmaine>

