

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Connecticut

Issues

- Connecticut, one of the most densely populated states in the U.S., contains 253 miles of coastline bordering Long Island Sound that supports a diversity of coastal habitats and provides recreational and economic benefits for millions of people.
- The state's long history of industrial development in the coastal zone and along the Connecticut River has created a misfortune of hazardous waste sites. Municipal landfills and military sites are also sources of contamination of natural resources.
- Like other New England states, Connecticut is a large user of home heating fuel. Long Island Sound is a major shipping route for fuel oil and other refined petroleum products. The Port of New Haven is the largest port in Connecticut and with its northbound pipeline, has been a busy petroleum port for New England since World War II. Fuel storage and transfer facilities on both shores of Long Island also pose a threat of 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:

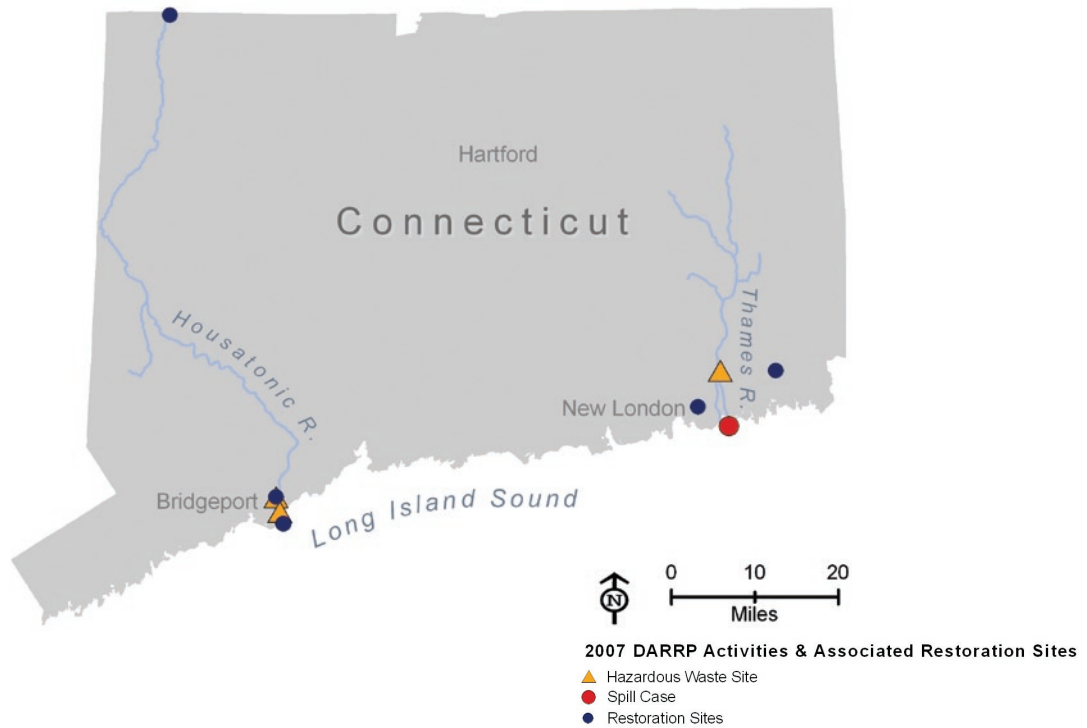
- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration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



RTC 380 Oil Spill, Long Island Sound, New London - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 60 acres of marine habitats and 11 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats in Connecticut (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 7 protection and restoration projects in Connecticut.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 8 hazardous waste sites.



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Lordship Point Remington Arms Site, Stratford – In a cooperative settlement process, those responsible agreed to remove lead-contaminated sediments from the beach and nearshore zones; create an 8-acre coastal grassland; protect a 50-acre property; and restore anadromous fish habitat in the town of Stratford. These projects are in various stages of implementation.
- *RTC 380* Oil Spill, Long Island Sound, New London – Completed two fishway projects in Waterford and Groton which provide access for migratory adult river herring and other anadromous fish to upstream spawning and riverine habitats (photo on page 1).
- GE Housatonic River – Developing a river restoration plan with co-trustees to address resource injuries and lost uses associated with PCBs released to the river; claim against GE for natural resource damages resulted in a settlement that now reaches \$8.5 million.

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

