

New England

Ecological Services Field Office

in Connecticut

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress



Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D)
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D)
Rep. John B. Larson (D-1st)
Rep. Robert Simmons (R-2nd)
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-3rd)
Rep. Christopher Shays (R-4th)
Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-5th)

Contact

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Profile

Established: 1957
Staff: 27*
FY 2003 budget: \$2,100,000
*Headquarters located in Concord, NH with satellites in Sunderland, MA, Old Town, ME and Charlestown, RI.

Purpose

Field office biologists work with landowners, private organizations, government agencies and other partners to conserve fish and wildlife resources in New England. Their work is guided by the following laws and other related legislative authorities:

Clean Water Act
Endangered Species Act
Federal Power Act
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Food Security Act
Migratory Bird Treaty Act
National Environmental Policy Act
Emergency Wetlands Resources Act
Oil Pollution Act
CERCLA (Superfund)
Water Resources Development Act
Coastal Barrier Resources Act

Cooperative Assistance Activities

- Conduct outreach activities to inform media, legislators, interest groups and the public of Service activities.
- In partnership with other agencies and organizations, restore populations of plants and animals on the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species.
- Provide technical assistance to the Army Corps of Engineers to avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of wetland development projects.
- With public and private partners, develop ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate harmful effects of hydropower projects.
- Assess effects of contaminants on fish and wildlife resources, obtain compensation for and restore wildlife injured by contaminants, and resolve contaminant problems on existing and proposed Service lands.
- Carry out the Department of the Interior's responsibilities on oil and chemical spill response teams.
- In partnership with other federal and state agencies and non-government conservation organizations, restore degraded habitat and remove barriers to fish passage.

Highlights

The Service's input into the state water quality certificate for five hydropower facilities on the Housatonic River has helped resolve resource issues including operation methods, water quality, minimum flows and fish passage. These hydropower projects adversely affect the entire length of the Housatonic River in the state.

Service biologists worked with state fisheries staff and hydro owners to secure fish passage at three dams in

the Thames River basin. The fishways will open over 9 miles of spawning and nursery habitat for shad and herring.

Service biologists continue to work with the state to manage and monitor a growing bald eagle population.

Service biologists have discovered a new population of federally endangered dwarf wedgemussels in the Farmington River.

Issues

Service biologists are working with state and federal highway authorities to minimize environmental impacts associated with realigning Route 11.

The Service and state are developing plans to restore fish and wildlife resources injured by PCB releases in the Housatonic River.

Service biologists coordinate with the state, U.S. Coast Guard and coastal towns to ensure that seasonal fireworks displays proceed without impacting threatened piping plovers.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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