

Southern New England – New York Bight

Coastal Program in Connecticut

Represented by the following Members of Congress

Senator Christopher Dodd (D)
Senator Joseph Lieberman (D)
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th districts

Contact

Don Henne, Project Leader
S. New England-New York Bight
Coastal Ecosystems Program
P. O. Box 307
Charlestown, RI 02813
Phone: 401/364 9124
Fax: 401/364 0170
TDD: 800/877 8339
<http://www.fws.gov/r5snep/index.htm>

Purpose

This Coastal Program works to conserve the ecological integrity of the area's heavily populated coastal zone. The program is responsible for coastal resources from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to Cape May, New Jersey. This area includes two of the largest, most heavily impacted estuaries in the Northeast: Long Island Sound and New York/New Jersey Harbor.

The work of this program is guided by several laws and related legislative authorities, including:

Clean Water Act
Endangered Species Act
Oil Pollution Act
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Coastal Barrier Improvement Act
*Coastal Wetland Planning,
Protection and Restoration Act*

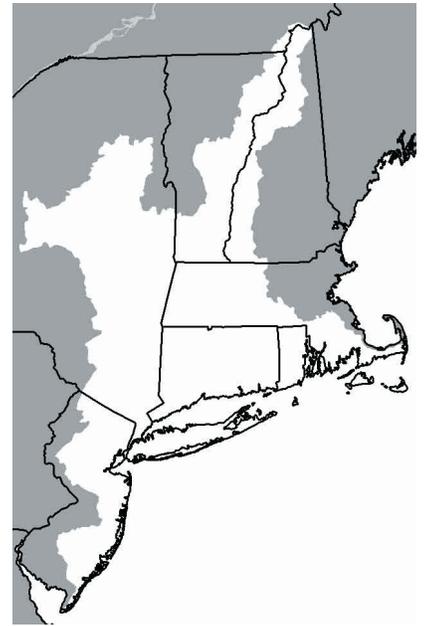
Program Activities

The Coastal Program provides expertise and resources to projects that protect and restore coastal habitats. The program also plays a critical role in multi-agency groups by identifying and mapping coastal habitats and assisting with the recovery of federally threatened and endangered species.

Current partners include *Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, NOAA, EPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Connecticut Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Regional Plan Association, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Sound, Connecticut Audubon Society, University of Connecticut and Mystic Aquarium.*

Highlights

- Conducting an ecological assessment of Long Island Sound as part of a multi-agency effort to create a system of stewardship
- Assisting with the successful \$1 million grant application to add 144 acres to the Barn Island Wildlife Management Area
- Participating in the state's Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
- Collaborating with the Mystic Aquarium, a Coastal America Learning Center, on outreach and education activities
- Contributing biological expertise to the state's multi-agency coastal restoration team
- Providing technical expertise to assist partners with state and federal resource protection grants



- Contributing funds through a cooperative agreement with the state Department of Environmental Protection to restore early successional habitat

Issues

Coastal lands are in extreme demand in this region, and property values are among the highest in the country. Land acquisition, as a priority means of protecting habitat, comes at an exceptional cost and funding does not stretch as far here as it does in other parts of the country.

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
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

March 2004

