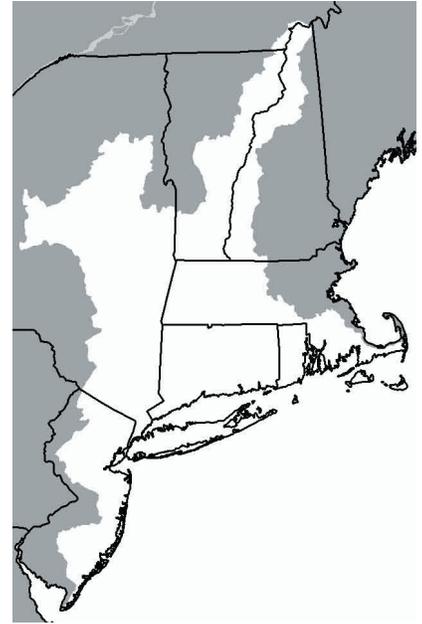


Southern New England – New York Bight

Coastal Program in Massachusetts



Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)
Senator John F. Kerry (D)
1st, 2nd, 4th, 9th, 10th districts

Contact

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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 Coastal Program office 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 for 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 *Massachusetts Environmental Management Department, Environmental Protection Department, and Environmental Affairs Executive Office, NOAA, EPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and the New England Aquarium.*

Highlights

- Coordinating educational research cruises with partnering agency EPA and the New England Aquarium, a Coastal America Learning Center
- Serving as a Service liaison to the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head on natural resource issues
- Contributing funds and technical expertise to the American Heritage River Blackstone-Woonasquatucket Initiative through a new cooperative agreement
- Serving as the first wildlife resource agency to help the Coast Guard and responsible party in wildlife protection and recovery during May 2003 oil spill in Buzzards Bay

Issues

Coastal lands are in extreme demand throughout the state, 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 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>

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