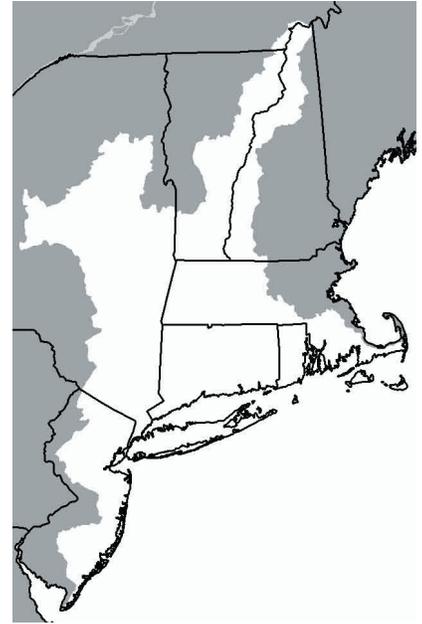


Southern New England – New York Bight

Coastal Program in Rhode Island



Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)
Senator Lincoln D. Chafee (R)
Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-1st)
Rep. James R. Langevin (D-2nd)

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 to 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 *Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, NOAA, EPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, Rhode Island Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Save the Bay, University of Rhode Island, The Nature Conservancy and Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex.*

Highlights

- Contributing funds and technical expertise to the American Heritage River Blackstone-Woonasquatucket Initiative through a new cooperative agreement
- Participating in the Rhode Island Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
- Assisting the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge complex in various projects, including refuge planning and construction of a new visitor center and office complex in Charlestown
- Coordinating with NOAA on a beach grass restoration project at Napatree Point in Watch Hill
- Consulting on wetland restoration at Sachuest Point NWR
- Providing funds and technical support to the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association through a cooperative agreement

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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