

Gulf of Maine

Coastal Program

Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME)
Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME)
1st and 2nd Congressional districts

Senator Robert C. Smith (R-NH)
Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH)
1st and 2nd Congressional districts

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA)
Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA)
6th, 7th, 8th and 10th districts

Contact

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Purpose

The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program was established as part of a nation-wide network of Service Coastal Program Offices to protect coastal fish and wildlife habitat through partnerships. Work is guided by the following laws and legislative authorities:

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

Management Activities

- Identify and map important fish and wildlife habitat
- Develop working partnerships with other federal and state agencies, statewide conservation groups, local land trusts and watershed associations, industry representatives and willing landowners
- Work with partners to permanently protect high-value habitat through fee and easement acquisition
- Work with partners to restore habitat on coastal nesting islands, rivers, salt marshes and native grasslands

Highlights

Working in voluntary partnerships, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program played a key role in:

Permanently protecting more than 820,000 acres of high-value fish and wildlife habitat;

Restoring nesting habitat on 13 islands;

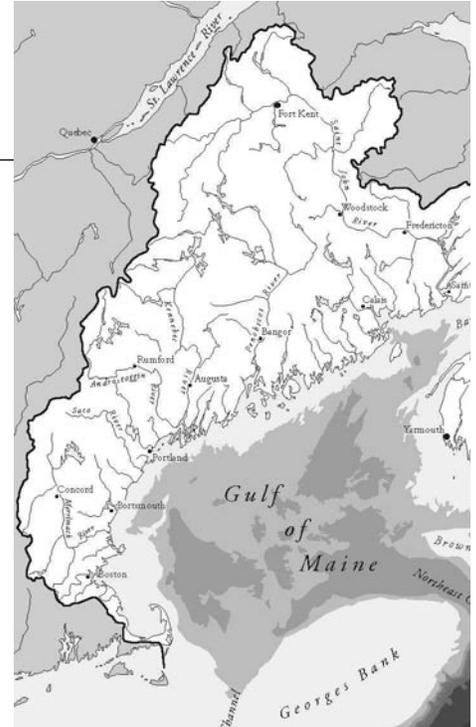
Restoring riverine and riparian habitat at 56 sites by removing dams, installing fishways and controlling erosion;

Restoring more than 1,800 acres of salt marshes at 65 sites;

Leveraging \$92 million in non-federal and federal funds to support habitat identification, protection and restoration initiatives.

Issues

Increasing development pressures destroy, fragment and/or diminish habitat values for fish, wildlife and people.



Thousands of dams and other barriers degrade river habitat and prevent passage for sea-run fish.

Undersized culverts, man-made ditches and invasive plants in coastal marshes minimize habitat values for fish and waterbirds.

The number of Atlantic salmon in Maine rivers remains precariously low.

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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