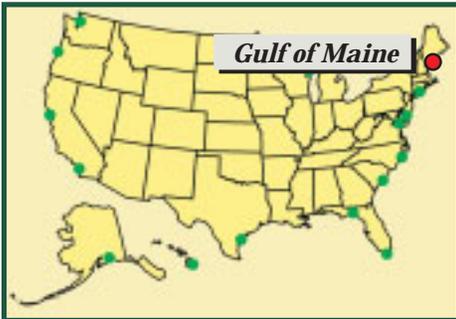




U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The Coastal Program

Success in the Gulf of Maine

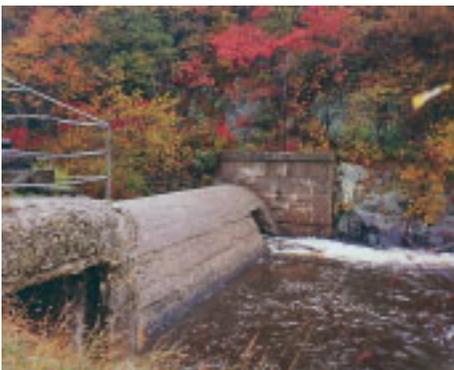


Caring for Our Coastal Habitats



GIS maps provide valuable tools for resource managers.

Photo by Jennifer Greiner, USFWS



Head-of-tide dam on Sheepscot River; one of many small dams identified as barriers to Atlantic salmon migration in Maine.

Photo by Jennifer Greiner, USFWS

Building Strong Partnerships

The Service's Gulf of Maine Coastal Program protects and restores economically, recreationally and ecologically important coastal fish and wildlife habitat through partnerships in the Gulf of Maine watershed. Using existing biological data, state-of-the-art computer mapping and management capabilities, Gulf of Maine Program biologists analyze data, identify and map important fish and wildlife habitat, and recommend and implement habitat protection and restoration projects. Gulf of Maine Program biologists work with interested parties—Federal and State agencies, statewide conservation groups, local land trusts, fishermen interest groups, industry representatives, and willing landowners—to catalyze action.

On-the-Ground Results

The Gulf of Maine Program has focused its efforts on restoring and permanently protecting (fee and easement acquisition) coastal wetlands, nesting islands, grasslands, and North Woods forest and wetlands for migratory birds, and riverine

habitat for Atlantic salmon and other searun fish. From 1994 through 2001, using a non-regulatory partnership approach, the Gulf of Maine Program has played a key role in:

- protecting more than 1,137,200 acres through fee or easement acquisition -- including 38 coastal nesting islands, 86 coastal wetland properties, 31 riparian areas protecting Atlantic salmon habitat, and the largest timberland no-development easement in the history of the United States;
- actively managing 10 coastal nesting islands to restore avian diversity;
- restoring coastal wetlands by plugging ditches, removing impediments to tidal flow, and/or controlling the spread of invasive plants;
- restoring 2 grasslands by mowing, burning and/or seeding to support grassland-dependent birds;

Partnership Tips

What are the other ingredients that make our partnerships work? Here are some lessons learned:

Respect each other, personally and professionally

Understand individual and organizational strengths and weaknesses

Look for intersecting interests

Don't make work for partners that their organizations won't support

Bring tangible goods (money and knowledge) to the partnership

Be generous sharing information

Recognize that it'll take time

Delegate workload and establish accountability procedures

Be generous giving credit to others

Focus on an overall goal that everyone endorses

There's no real cookbook. Be flexible!

- completing 38 river restoration projects to benefit searun fish -- including the removal of 7 dams and the installation or repair of 11 fish passage facilities; and
- leveraging more than \$68 million in habitat protection and restoration funding.

Key Ingredients for Partnerships

By integrating collective strengths and maintaining a flexible, non-regulatory and voluntary approach, the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program and its partners are turning their ambitious conservation agenda into reality. "Our habitat protection and restoration success stories are about the best in partnerships," says



Little Thrumpcap Island, one of 26 coastal shorebird nesting islands protected through the joint efforts of the Gulf of Maine Program and its partners. USFWS photo

Project Leader Stewart Fefer. "By working together, we are accomplishing goals that none of our organizations could achieve independently." The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program supplies six tangible commodities in building its partnerships: knowledge of conservation biology and techniques for habitat restoration and protection; specific knowledge of Gulf of Maine watershed's biological resources; GIS mapping and habitat prioritization skills; outreach capability; expertise in managing collaborative partnerships; and knowledge of Federal funding sources.

Partners provide key ingredients for success. State agencies, for example, provide biological data and may offer long-term management of protected lands. Statewide conservation groups provide legal expertise regarding conservation options for private landowners and frequently identify potential acquisition sites and contact landowners. Local conservation groups can provide site-specific knowledge and are often best suited to approach individuals and businesses in their community who might be receptive to conservation opportunities. Local groups can also offer long-term stewardship for protected or restored lands and waters. All partners provide matching funds for Federal grants.

"I want to highlight the important role that the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program plays in making our partnerships for conservation succeed...(their) technical assistance has led to dozens of cooperative efforts to protect and restore nationally important fish and wildlife habitat. At Maine Coast Heritage Trust ... we depend on the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program to help guide our land protection initiatives toward the protection of high value fish and wildlife habitat and to assist us with federal grants for habitat protection and restoration." -- Jay Espy, Executive Director, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and President of the Land Trust Alliance

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