

The Coastal Program

Caring for Our Coastal Habitats



Fisheries & Habitat Conservation

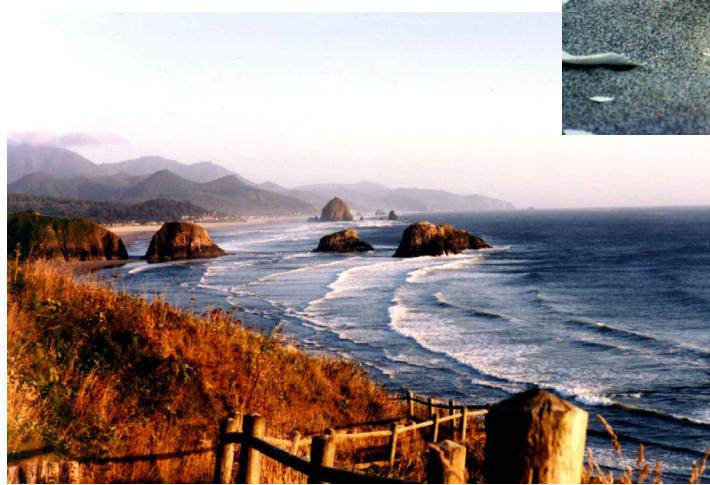
The Coastal Program Approach:

Partners with coastal communities to improve the health of their watersheds for fish, wildlife and people;

Identifies, evaluates and maps important habitat and provides technical assistance;

Assesses the health of coastal habitats and the wildlife resources dependent upon them;

Restores habitat.



As Americans flock to the coasts to enjoy their beauty and recreational and economic opportunities, communities and resource managers face the challenge of integrating economic development with conservation of coastal resources. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program helps communities meet this challenge.

COASTAL PROGRAM'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From 1994-2004

Restored-

- 112,000 acres of coastal wetlands
- 26,100 acres of coastal uplands
- 1,118 miles of coastal streamside habitat

Protected-

- 1.33 million acres of coastal habitat

In FY 2004

- 19 partnership agreement

Restored-

- 18,325 acres of coastal wetlands
- 1,646 acres of coastal uplands
- 157 miles of streamside habitat
- 4 fish barriers removed

Protected-

- 28,589 acres of coastal wetlands
- 310,643 acres of coastal uplands.



USFWS Photos

PROJECT EXAMPLES:

Alaska - restored fish habitat by recreating pools, runs, and riffles and removing barriers to fish passage. Project monitoring will provide information about the response of a stream system and the fish and wildlife that live there.

Chesapeake Bay - provided technical assistance to Anne Arundel County, Maryland to develop a reference reach database for stream restoration design. The county will use this database for reviewing stream restoration projects in Maryland's western coastal plain, a region with intense development pressure and significant stream modification.

Delaware Bay - controlled invasive Phragmites and cattails on approximately 1,382 acres of emergent wetland and 156 acres of upland habitat to improve habitat conditions for native fish and wildlife.

Great Lakes - removed a culvert, excavated stream banks, and planted native trees and shrubs to restore fish passage for native brook trout and reduce sedimentation.

Gulf of Maine - worked in close coordination with *Beginning with Habitat*, the first major coordinated statewide effort of several State and Federal agencies to provide integrated data on important habitats; contributed to the partnership by producing maps, finalizing written products and distributing information and mapped data to town planners and land trusts in Maine. In FY 2004 alone, 40 towns and 11 land trusts received presentations and information.

Hawaii - helped implement the Waipa Community's watershed restoration plan to remove alien riparian and coastal vegetation and replant with native species grown in local greenhouses. Partners included the Waipa Foundation and the Kamehameha Schools.

Puget Sound, Washington - removed instream blockages and installed fish-passable culverts and weirs. This project restored access to spawning and rearing habitats for coho and chum salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. Partners included the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the South Puget Sound

Salmon Enhancement Group, the Thurston Conservation District, and over 20 private landowners.

South Carolina Coast - provided technical assistance and funding to help protect 1,228 acres of coastal wetlands, uplands and riparian habitat from conversion and loss due to expanding residential and urban development.

Texas Gulf Coast - used management techniques including prescribed fire and grazing on 4,500 acres of coastal prairie and wetlands to maintain and enhance native vegetation. This project provides habitat for migratory grassland birds and potential habitat for the critically endangered Attwater's prairie chicken.

WHY CARE FOR OUR COASTS?

Our Nation's coasts provide important fish and wildlife habitat far beyond their limited geographic extent. Coastal ecosystems comprise less than 10% of the land area, but support a much larger percentage of the Nation's:

- Migratory songbirds (85%)
- Fish and shellfish (77%)
- Waterfowl (75%)
- Shorebirds (92%)
- Threatened and endangered species (45%)

THREATS TO COASTAL HABITATS

- Habitat loss due to urbanization
- Fishery habitat loss
- Frequent oil spills
- Wetland losses of 50-90% from historic levels
- Nutrient over-enrichment
- Dams and culverts which restrict or limit the movement of fish and wildlife

For more information about the Coastal Program, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at 202/208-6394 or visit us on the Internet at <http://fisheries.fws.gov/>.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
800/344-WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

February 2005



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Coastal Program Locations

