

## **FY06 PFW Program Notable Accomplishment – New England Field Office**

**State:** Massachusetts – Technical Assistance

**Name:** Herring River Restoration Planning, Wellfleet, MA

**Location:** Towns of Wellfleet and Truro, Barnstable County, Massachusetts

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**HabITS number(s):** 39872

**Project Narrative:** Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff are working with the Town of Wellfleet, MA Wetlands Restoration Program, National Park Service, NOAA, USDA (NRCS), and numerous other local stakeholders on the Herring River Technical Committee to restore the tidal river and its associated estuarine wetlands. At 1100 acres, this proposed restoration project will be the largest of its type in the northeastern U. S. Diked in 1908, the plan to restore this degraded estuarine system will need to address complex issues such as the size of the tidal opening and associated tide heights, low-lying properties, historic salt marsh subsidence, water quality, salinity change, sediment transport, vegetational change, wildlife habitat, fish passage, commercial shellfish distribution, recreational use, and aesthetic values. Currently, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff provide technical assistance on an ex-officio basis to the Herring River Technical Committee. Full Committee membership is anticipated in October, 2006.

**Restoration Technique:** Modification of Dike and Water Control Structures, Invasive Species Control, Education and Outreach, Partnership Development

**Project Size:** Plan for Restoration of 1100 acres of estuarine wetlands

**Project Benefits:** The ultimate goal of the project is to restore natural community vegetation (*Spartina* dominated system) to approximately 1100 acres of degraded tidal wetland habitat. Eventual completion of the restoration project will benefit several state-listed species dependent on tidal wetlands and numerous migratory bird species that utilize coastal wetlands including the American black duck, northern harrier, seaside sparrow, and salt-marsh sharp-tailed sparrow. Additionally, the project would provide access to spawning and/or rearing habitat for river herring and American eels. Community involvement in the project is significant with participation by municipal governments, abutting landowners, commercial shellfishing organizations, local watershed associations and sportsmen's groups.

**Timeframe:** August, 2006 – October, 2008



Caption: Herring River Dike, Credit: National Park Service



Caption: Aerial photograph of lower Herring River and Dike, Wellfleet, MA  
Credit: Cape Cod National Seashore, National Park Service