

Southern New England – New York Bight

Coastal Program in Massachusetts

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)
Senator John F. Kerry (D)
1st, 2nd, 4th, 9th, 10th districts

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Purpose

The Coastal Program works through partnerships to conserve the ecological integrity of the area's heavily populated coastal zone. The program supports coastal resources protection in the area from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to Cape May, New Jersey. This area includes two of the largest, most heavily impacted estuaries in the country: Long Island Sound and New York/New Jersey Harbor.

The work of the Coastal Program is guided by several laws and 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

To protect and restore coastal habitats, the Coastal Program uses biological expertise to assess landscape and site-specific natural resources. The staff works with government and private partners and uses computer map and database tools to identify valuable and threatened areas and species needing protection. The office also actively seeks grant funds to support implementation.

Current partners include *Massachusetts Environmental Management Department, Environmental Protection Department, and Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, NOAA, EPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Coast Guard and Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge*



Cape Cod coast

Stephanie Koch/USFWS

Highlights

- Provided technical assistance and funds for fish ladder construction at Shad Factory Brook in Palmer for the last American shad run in the Narragansett Bay watershed.
- Coordinated with state agencies planning an eelpass facility at Yokum Brook.
- Contributed funds to control water chestnut in wetlands in Holyoke.
- Supported the response and impact assessment actions for the Bouchard spill in Buzzards Bay, and the ongoing evaluation of restoration projects funded by civil penalties.

Issues

Land in the Northeast is in high demand with competing commercial and residential interests encouraging high sale prices. Land acquisition as a means of habitat protection is often seen as a short-term expense rather than a long-term investment.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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