

Southern New England – New York Bight

Coastal Program in New Jersey

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
Senator Robert Menendez (D)
2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th,
11th, 13th 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 resource protection 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 *New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NOAA, EPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Coast Guard, Ducks Unlimited and Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.*



Wood duck

USFWS

Highlights

- Assisted the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge with habitat enhancement and invasive species control for the federally listed bog turtle.
- Provided funding for the partnership of the New Jersey Waterfowlers, Ducks Unlimited and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for invasive species management and water control at the Wading River Special Management Area.
- Protected cave habitat for bats in Mount Hope and at the Hibernia Mine by sharing funds with the FWS office in Pleasantville and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

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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