

Southern New England – New York Bight

Coastal Program in New York

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D)
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)
1st through 23rd districts

Contact

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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 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

The Coastal Program uses biological expertise to assess landscape and site-specific natural resources. The staff 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 York Department of Environmental Conservation, NOAA, EPA, Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Natural Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, SUNY, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, New York Audubon and Westchester County.*



Morton Beach, Long Island Sound

R. W. Parris/USFWS

Highlights

- Supported conservation and restoration grant awards through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. In three years, 44 projects were funded with \$1.5M, matched nearly 3 to 1 by New York partner grant applicants.
- Completed the inventory of New York's ecologically significant areas of Long Island Sound and supported recommendations to include 16 sites withing the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative.
- Provided technical assistance to fish passage projects on the Hudson, Nissequogue, Carmans and Little rivers.
- Supported efforts to recover the federally listed piping plover through a predator control project along the South Shore of Long Island.

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.

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