

Gulf of Maine Coastal Program



Installing plug in man-made drainage ditch to restore salt marsh hydrology



Removing dam to restore fish



Seabird island survey

Since colonial times, Maine's natural environment has been subject to serious abuse. Maine's rivers, for example, are burdened with excessive sedimentation, loss of riparian vegetation and thousands of dams -- which can cause dramatic declines in searun fish and waterbird populations, degrade riverine habitat values, and reduce access for recreational users. Coastal island nesting birds may be threatened by disturbances associated with second home developments, timber harvesting, recreational use, aquaculture and predation. Coastal marshes have been degraded by drainage ditches, filling, invasive plants, road crossings and undersized culverts. Increasingly, individuals and groups are becoming interested in restoring habitat. Gulf of Maine Coastal Program is committed to working in voluntary partnerships with all interested partners to restore the ecological vitality and the recreational and economic values of rivers, nesting islands and coastal marshes -- for migratory fish, birds, endangered species -- and for all of us.

Gulf of Maine Coastal Program works with biologists, engineers, hydrologists, local residents and landowners to identify, plan, fund, permit, implement and monitor habitat restoration projects. With more than \$2.6 million in financial support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program, Fish Passage Funds, Tribal Grants, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-funded Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund and Maine Habitat Restoration Partnership, and with additional financial and technical assistance provided by many federal, state and non-government partners and environmental consulting firms, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has restored:

- **migratory fish passage at more than 74 sites:** Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has been actively involved in removing, lowering or breaching dams, installing or repairing fishways, completing riparian and riverine restoration projects to minimize non-point source pollution, eliminating excessive sedimentation and re-establishing diverse in-stream habitats. We have also provided funds to support the Penobscot River Restoration Partnership, an ambitious effort to restore diadromous fish passage to more than 500 miles of historic habitat.
- **seabirds at 12 nesting islands:** Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has provided various levels of support -- ranging from active logistical support in managing island field camps, to vegetation monitoring, nesting surveys and mapping, to funding active management activities -- all designed to rebuild and maintain seabird populations on coastal Maine islands.
- **coastal wetlands at 21 sites on 10 marshes:** Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has been actively involved in restoring natural hydrology by plugging selected man-made drainage ditches, removing undersized culverts, breaching old roads, removing fill and eliminating invasive plants.
- **grasslands and pine barrens at 6 sites:** Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has provided funds to support prescribed burning, mowing, monitoring and scientific assessment of restoration activities.

Gulf of Maine Coastal Program also supports restoration work by completing inventories to identify, assess and prioritize potential potential restoration sites. For example, we actively participated in developing inventories of salt marsh restoration opportunities and invasive plants in Scarborough Marsh, current and historic ranges of Maine's twelve species of diadromous fish, and comprehensive inventories of spawning and rearing habitat for Atlantic salmon in Maine rivers. We have also been on the forefront of developing, funding and implementing a scientifically-credible restoration monitoring protocols at multiple salt marsh and fish passage restoration sites. Partnerships remain vital as we continue to build our collective capacity and work towards achieving our habitat restoration goals.

For further information, please contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
 4R Fundy Road
 Falmouth, Maine 04105
 Phone: (207) 781-8364
 FAX: (207) 781-8369
 E-mail: r5es_gomp@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/gulfofmaine>



Sampling of habitat restoration sites

Diadromous fish restoration sites:

(All of the projects listed below benefit a wide array of diadromous species, including Atlantic salmon. See Maine's Wild Atlantic Salmon fact sheet for other restoration activities specifically focused on Atlantic salmon recovery.).



Royal River fishway repairs (2)
Souadabscook Stream /Grist Mill Dam removal
Souadabscook Stream/Upper Falls Dam removal
SouadabscookStream/LRecreation Area Dam breach
Pleasant River/Brownville Dam removal
Stetson Stream/Archers Mill Dam removal
Pleasant Pond Dam fishway installation
Androscoggin River/Brunswick fishway assessment
Pleasant River/Columbia Falls Dam lowering
St. Croix River/Milltown Dam fishway assessment
Lower Kennebec River/Center Pond fishway repair
East Machias River Dam removal
Whites Pond fishway installation
Sebasticook R./Guildford Dam removal
Plymouth Pond fishway installations (2)
Sennebec Dam removal and roughened ramp installation
Presumpscot River/Smelt Hill Dam removal
Cobbosseecontee Stream/Paperboard Dam assessment
Highland Lake fishway repair
Sebasticook fishway
Little River-Boyden Lake fishway repair
Somes Sound-Long Pond fishway repair (2)
Fields Pond fishway assessment

Grasslands and pine barrens:

Aroostook NWR (2)
Kennebunk Plains (2)
Waterboro Barrens (2)



Nesting seabird islands:

Petit Manan Island, ME Coastal Islands NWR
Ship Island, ME Coastal Islands NWR
Trumpet Island, ME Coastal Islands NWR
Matinicus Rock, ME Coastal Islands NWR
Seal Island NWR, ME Coastal Islands NWR
Pond Island, ME Coastal Islands NWR
Metinic Island, ME Coastal Islands NWR
Little Thrumcap, ME Coastal Islands NWR
Eastern Egg Rock, Muscongus Bay
Jenny Island, Casco Bay
Stratton Island, Casco Bay
Outer Green Island, Casco Bay



Coastal marshes:

(This list includes wetland restoration projects that Gulf of Maine Coastal Program played a leadership role in planning, designing, implementing and/or monitoring).



Salt Bay Farm, Damariscotta
Weskeag Estuary, South Thomaston (5 phases/sites)
Back River Creek, Bath
Sprague River Marsh, Phippsburg (3 phases/sites)
Scarborough Marsh, Seavey Landing
Florida Lakes, Freeport
Wheeler Refuge, York
Chauncey Creek, Kittery
Vinal Cove, Vinalhaven
Scarborough Marsh restoration inventory
Scarborough Marsh invasive plant inventory & removal
Scarborough Marsh, Seavey Landing
Scarborough Marsh, Cascade Brook
Scarborough Marsh, Mill Brook
Scarborough Marsh, Nonesuch River
Scarborough Marsh, Libby River
