

Gulf of Maine

Coastal Program

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME)
Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME)
Maine districts 1 and 2

Senator Robert C. Smith (R-NH)
Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH)
New Hampshire districts 1 and 2

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA)
Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA)
Massachusetts districts 6, 7, 8 and 10

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Purpose

The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program was established as part of a nationwide network of Service Coastal Program offices to identify, assess, protect and restore nationally significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat through partnerships. Work is guided by the following laws and legislative authorities:

Clean Water Act

Coastal Barrier Improvement Act

Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

Endangered Species Act

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Oil Pollution Act

Management Activities

- Identify and map important fish and wildlife habitat
- Develop working partnerships with other federal and state agencies, statewide conservation groups, local land trusts and watershed associations, industry representatives, and willing landowners
- Work with partners to permanently protect high-value habitat through fee and easement acquisition
- Work with partners to restore habitat on coastal nesting islands, coastal wetlands and rivers.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD

<http://www.fws.gov>

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Highlights

- Permanently protected more than 1,680,000 acres of high-value fish and wildlife habitat through fee and easement acquisition, including 58 nesting islands, 196 coastal wetlands and associated upland buffer sites, 21 uplands, and 65 areas adjacent to wild Atlantic salmon rivers
- Restored more than 6,850 acres of habitat for migratory birds, including 77 coastal wetlands, 6 grasslands and 12 seabird nesting islands
- Completed 69 river restoration projects to benefit sea-run fish, including 11 dam removals, 18 fishway repairs or installations, and many other erosion control and culvert installation projects
- Leveraged \$70.6 million in federal project funds and \$135.9 million in non-federal funds for habitat protection and restoration activities



Puffin with fish

Linda Welch/USFWS

Issues

Statewide, development pressures destroy, fragment and/or diminish habitat values for fish, wildlife and people.

Dams and other barriers to fish passage, current or historical loss of riparian buffers, and pollution degrade river habitat and prevent passage for sea-run fish.

Undersized culverts, man-made ditches and invasive plants in coastal marshes minimize habitat values for fish and waterbirds.

The populations of federally threatened or endangered species in Maine -- including Atlantic salmon, shortnose sturgeon, roseate tern, piping plover and Canada lynx -- remain precariously low.

