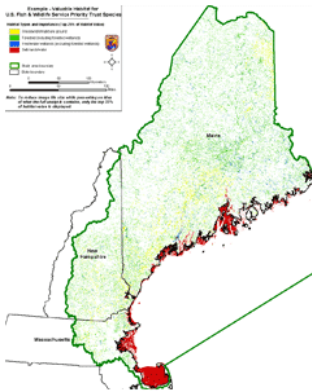
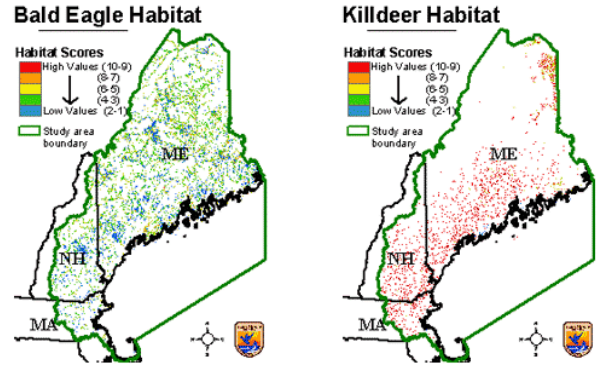


Identifying, ranking and mapping habitat for priority trust species in the Gulf of Maine watershed

Gulf of Maine Coastal Program

Building partnerships to identify, protect and restore nationally important fish and wildlife habitat in the Gulf of Maine watershed

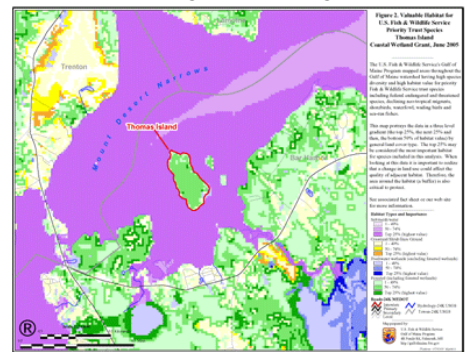
In order to strategically protect fish and wildlife habitat for endangered, threatened, rare or declining trust species in the Gulf of Maine watershed, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Gulf of Maine Coastal Program identified, mapped and ranked important fish and wildlife habitat for priority species throughout the U.S. portion of Gulf of Maine watershed. Staff biologists first selected 91 species. *All species included in this analysis are listed on the reverse side of this fact sheet.* Next, biologists ranked habitat values for all species -- based on verified sightings and by developing habitat suitability models reflecting the environmental requirements for each species.



Once habitat maps were completed for each species, biologists combined all of the maps to create a composite map identifying priority grassland, forest, freshwater wetland and estuarine habitat. Data can be viewed watershed-wide, and it can also be viewed at a 1:24,000 topographic map scale. The larger scale topographic map scale allows the analysis to be practical for identifying predicted habitat values for all 91 species on individual parcels of land. Gulf of Maine Coastal Program provides this information to help conservationists and town planners focus habitat protection efforts in areas of greatest biological value.

Results of the analysis have been used to help implement on-the-ground conservation initiatives, including:

- catalyzing and supporting hundreds of initiatives to protect high value habitat through federal and state grant programs directed to land trusts, state agencies and National Wildlife Refuges,
- *Beginning with Habitat*, a statewide effort that identifies and prioritizes high value habitat identified by our USFWS office, Maine Natural Areas Program, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Maine Audubon Society in order to support land protection and planning efforts conducted by state and federal agencies, town officials, non-governmental conservation partners and willing landowners,
- educational/outreach activities with conservation partners and the media,
- comprehensive planning and management activities on National Wildlife Refuges,
- permit and license review by town, state and federal agencies, and
- contaminant and oil spill damage assessment and mitigation.



For further information, please contact:

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 Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
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Gulf of Maine watershed habitat analysis: Priority species list

All species included in our GIS habitat analysis regularly inhabit the Gulf of Maine watershed and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- federally endangered, threatened and candidate species,
- migratory birds, diadromous and estuarine fish that are declining nationwide,
- migratory birds, diadromous and estuarine fish that are threatened or endangered in two of the three states in the Gulf of Maine watershed, or
- other birds that have been identified as species of concern by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the Colonial Waterbird Plan and Partners in Flight.

Birds (75 species):

American bittern	Northern goshawk
American black duck	Northern harrier
American oystercatcher	Olive-sided flycatcher
American woodcock	Osprey
Arctic tern	Peregrine falcon
Bald eagle	Pied-billed grebe
Baltimore oriole	Piping plover
Bay-breasted warbler	Prairie warbler
Bicknell's thrush	Purple sandpiper
Black scoter	Razorbill
Black tern	Red crossbill
Black-bellied plover	Red-headed woodpecker
Blackburnian warbler	Red knot
Blackpoll warbler	Red-shouldered hawk
Black-throated blue warbler	Roseate tern
Blue-winged warbler	Ruddy turnstone
Buff-breasted sandpiper	Saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrow
Canada warbler	Sanderling
Cape May warbler	Scaup (greater and lesser)
Chestnut-sided warbler	Seaside sparrow
Common loon	Sedge wren
Common snipe	Semipalmated sandpiper
Common tern	Short-billed dowitcher
Eastern meadowlark	Short-eared owl
Field sparrow	Snowy egret
Golden-winged warbler	Solitary sandpiper
Grasshopper sparrow	Spruce grouse
Hudsonian godwit	Surf scoter
Killdeer	Tricolored heron
Least sandpiper	Upland sandpiper
Least tern	Veery
Little blue heron	Whimbrel
Little gull	Whip-poor-will
Louisiana waterthrush	White-winged scoter
Marsh wren	Wood duck
Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow	Wood thrush
Northern flicker	Yellow rail

Fish (9 species):

Alewife
American eel
American shad
Atlantic salmon
Atlantic sturgeon
Blueback herring
Bluefish
Shortnose sturgeon
Winter flounder

Plants (4 species):

Eastern prairie fringed orchid
Furbish's lousewort
Robbins' cinquefoil
Small whorled pogonia

Mammal:

Canada lynx

Invertebrate:

Horseshoe crab

Herps:

Plymouth redbelly turtle

