

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives Science Priority Projects for FY2010:

Vulnerability Assessments

The Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been working with regional partners to develop the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (NALCC). The NALCC is a science resource and delivery partnership that provides the tools and resources required to plan, design and implement on-the-ground conservation. These LCC partnerships consist of federal agencies, states, tribes and non-governmental organizations. The Northeast Region has been working with the NALCC partners to synthesize regional science priority needs. In the future, the fully functioning NALCC steering committee will provide recommendations to fund the projects that best address identified science priority needs.

In fiscal year 2010, the Northeast Region received \$920,000 to fund regional science projects that address those identified science priority needs. Guided by previously identified regional science priority needs, the Service has identified *Supplementing State Regional Conservation Needs (RCNs) Funds Associated with Regional Species and Habitat Vulnerability Assessments* as one of three projects that meet some of those needs and will be funded in fiscal year 2010.

Lead Investigators:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Research Partners:
Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Wildlife Management Institute



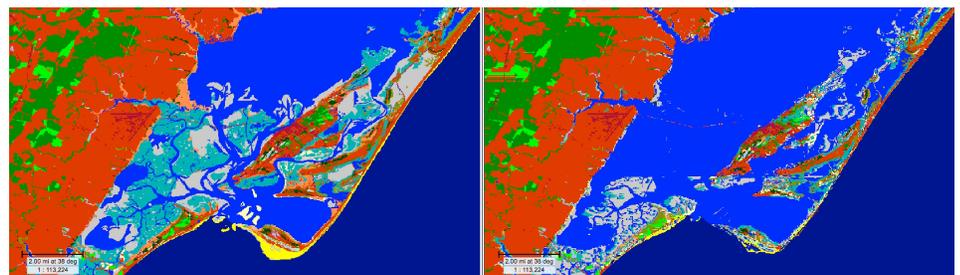
Ralph Tiner/USFWS

Coastal habitat off the coast of Cape Cod, MA

Amount of funding:
\$100,000 in fiscal year 2010

Project Description:
Supplementing State Regional Conservation Needs (RCNs) Funds associated with Regional Species and Habitat Vulnerability Assessments will build an approach to evaluating the state and regional vulnerabilities of fish and wildlife habitats within the Northeast. \$100,000 will be distributed through the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) process (www.rcngrants.org). Vulnerabilities that may impact species populations and habitats health include rising sea

levels washing away beaches, dunes, and marshes; increased salt water in marshes and wetlands on the coast; and forest habitat changing as trees such as spruces move north. Understanding how habitats and species are vulnerable in the changing climate will help conservation managers decide what they can do to plan for the changing environment and help identify the most important conservation actions. Potential projects that assess these vulnerabilities and inform conservation actions may include models of how species populations may change over time, maps of habitat types and how they are changing, and maps of identified areas of vulnerability across



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Example of a possible project tool



the NALCC. Project proposals have been received for the 2010 funding cycle; successful projects will be initiated early in 2011 and must be completed by 2013.

If you have any questions regarding this project or the NALCC, please email the NALCC at northeast_lcc@fws.gov or visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/climatechange/lcc>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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Flooded woods at Blackwater NWR