



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The Coastal Program

Caring for Our Coastal Habitats

As Americans flock to the coasts to enjoy their beauty and recreational and economic opportunities, communities and resource managers face the challenge of integrating economic development with conservation of coastal resources. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's **Coastal Program** helps communities meet this challenge.

Coastal Program's Accomplishments

From 1994 - 2007

Restored -

- 187,275 acres of coastal wetlands
- 64,170 acres of coastal uplands
- 1,607 miles of coastal streamside habitat

Protected - 1.73 million acres of coastal habitat.

In FY 2007

- 194 partnership agreements

Restored -

- 41,781 acres of coastal wetlands
- 13,394 acres of coastal uplands
- 123 miles of streamside habitat
- 11 fish barriers removed

Protected -

- 11,638 acres of coastal wetlands
- 7,801 acres of coastal uplands
- 19 miles of shoreline

The Coastal Program Approach

- Partners with coastal communities to improve the health of their watersheds for fish, wildlife and people.
- Provides technical assistance which includes identifying, evaluating and mapping important habitats and the wildlife resources dependent upon them.
- Restores habitat.
- Assists with habitat protection.

Project Examples:

Alaska - Restored fish habitat by re-creating pool, runs, and riffles and removing barriers to fish passage. Project monitoring will provide information about the response of a stream system and the fish and wildlife that live there.

Chesapeake Bay - Provided technical assistance to Anne Arundel County, Maryland to develop a reference reach database for stream restoration design. The county will use this database for

reviewing stream restoration projects in Maryland's western coastal plain, a region with intense development pressure and significant stream modifications.

Delaware Bay - Controlled invasive



Phragmites and cattails on approximately 1,382 acres of emergent wetland and 156 acres of upland habitat to improve habitat conditions for native fish and wildlife.

Great Lakes - Removed a culvert, excavated stream banks, and planted native trees and shrubs to restore fish passage for native brook trout and reduce sedimentation.

Gulf of Maine - Worked in close coordination with *Beginning with Habitat*, the first major coordinated statewide effort of several State and Federal agencies to provide integrated data on important habitats. In one year alone, 40 towns and 11 land trusts received presentations and information. Contributed to the partnership by producing maps, finalizing written products and distributing information and mapped data to town planners and land trusts in Maine.

Hawaii - Helped implement the Waipa Community's watershed restoration plan to remove alien riparian and coastal vegetation and replant with native species grown in local greenhouses. Partners included the Waipa Foundation and the Kamehameha Schools.

Puget Sound, Washington - Removed in-



stream blockages and installed fish-passable culverts and weirs. This project restored access to spawning and rearing habitats for coho and chum salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. Partners included the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, the Thurston Conservation District, and over 20 private landowners.

South Carolina Coast - Provided technical assistance and funding to help protect 1,228 acres of coastal wetlands, uplands and riparian habitat from conversion and loss due to expanding residential and urban development.

Texas Gulf Coast - Used management techniques including prescribed fire, and grazing on 4,500 acres of coastal prairie and wetlands to maintain and enhance native vegetation. This project provides habitat for migratory grassland birds and potential habitat for the critically endangered Attwater's prairie chicken.



Note: Numbers refer to USFWS Regions

Why Care For Our Coasts?

Our Nation's coasts provide important fish and wildlife habitat far beyond their limited geographic extent. Coastal ecosystems comprise less than 10% of the land area, but support a much larger percentage of the Nation's:

- Migratory songbirds (85%)
- Fish and shellfish (77%)
- Waterfowl (75%)
- Shorebirds (92%)
- Threatened and endangered species (45%)

Threats to Coastal Habitats

- Habitat loss due to urbanization
- Fishery habitat loss
- Frequent oil spills
- Wetland losses of 50-90% from historic levels
- Nutrient over-enrichment
- Dams and culverts which restrict or limit the movement of fish and wildlife

For more information, contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife Management and Habitat Restoration, Branch of Habitat Restoration at 703/358 2201. Our website at <http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalProgram> contains information about Coastal Program activities, accomplishments and contacts.

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