

# Southern New England-New York Bight

## Coastal Ecosystem Program



### The Coastal Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program, in cooperation with our partners, is working to avoid species declines by integrating Service activities, lending biological and technical expertise to decision-makers, implementing on-the-ground solutions and fostering outreach to instill stewardship.

Across the nation, the Coastal Program, as of 2008 has:

- Restored over 223,233 acres of coastal wetlands
- Restored over 75,100 acres of coastal upland habitat
- Restored over 1,701 miles of riparian and in-stream habitat
- Protected over 1.78 million acres of habitat
- Leveraged Federal tax dollars at least 3:1 through partnerships

### The Coastal Program is:

- Voluntary and Non-Regulatory
- Strategically Ecosystem-based
- Partnership driven
- Results oriented
- Directly assisting partners (financially and technically)



*The loss of estuarine and nearshore habitat is the greatest long-term threat to the health of our marine ecosystems. Photo courtesy Rhode Island Department of Fish & Wildlife*

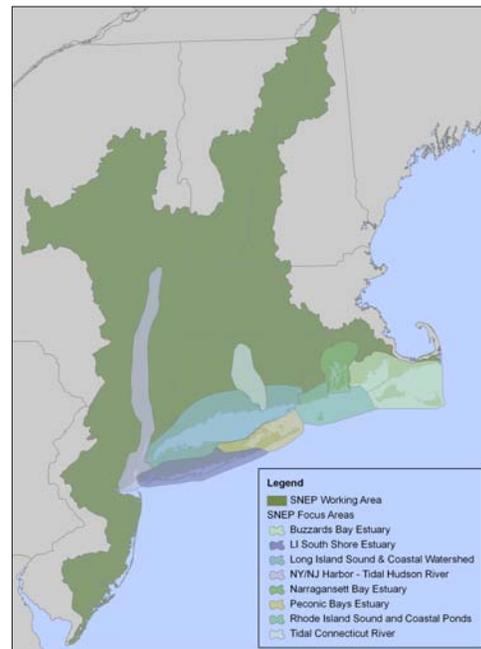
### Coastal Habitats Are Important

Coastal habitats maintain water quality, protect communities from storms, reduce flooding and provide important habitat for the following species:

- 85% of migratory songbirds
- 77% of fish and shellfish
- 92% of shorebirds
- 45% of threatened and endangered species

### What is the Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Program?

The Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Program (SNEP) is one of 21 coastal programs nationally that facilitates local conservation strategies. The SNEP area covers coastal watersheds in 5 states with habitats ranging from shorelines to forest (see map). The staff in the SNEP office carefully selected eight focal areas to concentrate their conservation efforts on. These areas are high in biodiversity and are home to endangered or threatened species.



*The Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Program Boundary*

### Cooperating for Conservation

From 2004- 2008 SNEP worked with dozens of partners on 32 projects in the program area. Through fish passage removal or improvement, predator control, invasive species removal and control, acquisition, monitoring and surveying, technical assistance, and funding projects the SNEP office contributed to the protection, enhancement, or restoration nearly 1,000 acres of habitat and 11 river miles for dozens of migratory and federally protected species.

### For additional information or questions contact:

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