# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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## INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S NEW ATLANTIC COAST ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY AND MAP SERIES PROVIDE FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIES INFORMATION AT A GLANCE; PACIFIC COAST PROJECT UNDERWAY

The future design and siting of coastal developments and major energy projects along the Eastern Seaboard may be significantly influenced with the use of a new inventory and map series of fish and wildlife species and other ecological resources recently compiled by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The "Atlantic Coast Ecological Inventory" is the first comprehensive series of maps of natural resources on the Atlantic Coast and is an important new planning tool for governments and industries that contemplate major developments in the coastal zone. A similar inventory of Pacific Coast resources is now underway by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

"This kind of information is designed to help planners locate their projects away from ecologically sensitive areas, such as important spawning grounds or the habitats of endangered species," says Under Secretary of the Interior James Joseph.

Developed with technical assistance from the U.S. Geological Survey, the Service's new inventory and maps depict the entire 76,000-square mile coastal zone, major land use designations, and all important fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

It is now possible, at a glance, to select any site on the East Coast from Maine to Florida and locate on a small-scale map the various types of fish and wildlife (such as endangered species, migratory waterfowl, and commercially important fish populations) that use the area and the different land use designations nearby (such as national wildlife refuges, State waterfowl management areas, and national and State parks).

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Covering portions of 15 coastal States, the inventory's 31 maps (designated as the Fish and Wildlife Service's National Ecological Map Series) depict 364 important plant and animal species, highlighting those species with special protections and listing the purposes for which they use particular coastal areas (breeding grounds, wintering areas, etc.).

This information, along with the special land use designations, is plotted on U.S. Geological Survey base maps at a 1:250,000 scale (1 inch represents about 4 miles). The ecological data on the maps covers an area bounded on the inland side by the States' coastal zone limits and on the ocean side by the 3-mile offshore limit -- the demarcation line between State and Federal jurisdictions.

In addition to the map series, a 163-page narrative report, "Atlantic Coast Ecological Inventory -- User's Guide and Information Base," is also available. The report provides detailed explanations and additional technical information about the ecological data plotted on the maps.

"We're very pleased with the products of this cooperative venture by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Geological Survey," Joseph said. "Anyone concerned with the Atlantic coastal zone and its uses -- from private industry to environmental organizations to local, State, and Federal government agencies -- now has a significant tool with which to judge the potential effects of environmental changes on fish and wildlife. We see this inventory as an opportunity to reduce conflicts among government, industry, and the environmental community by providing sound information, graphically displayed, before proposed actions become disputes."

The map series has already seen use in a joint Federal-State oil spill simulation session in New York. Members of a regional oil spill response team, drawn from the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, New York State, and other government agencies, used the maps to pinpoint concentrations of waterfowl and other sensitive natural resources on the southern shore of Long Island during a September 16 simulated ship grounding. Under national oil spill response programs, these drills are held periodically at various sites around the country.

Data collection and organization for this project was conducted under a 10-month, $234,736 contract with Dames & Moore of Bethesda, Maryland, an international engineering and earth science consulting firm. The biological data used to compile the inventories of habitat were drawn from Federal and regional agencies and the coastal zone management organizations in each of the Eastern Seaboard States. A $263,756 contract has been competitively awarded to Dames & Moore by the Service for a companion survey of ecological resources of the Pacific Coast, with completion scheduled by July 1981.

The maps are lithographically reproduced in five colors and distributed in a convenient 4x8-inch pocket-fold format. The 31 Atlantic Coast Ecological Inventory maps are formatted on 1x2-degree sheets and carry the same individual map names as the Geological Survey's topographic map series (Eastport, Bangor, Bath, Portland, Boston, Providence, Hartford, New York, Newark, Wilmington, Salisbury, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Norfolk, Eastville, Manteo, Rocky Mount, Beaufort, Florence, Georgetown, James Island, Augusta, Savannah, Brunswick, Jacksonville, Daytona Beach, Orlando, Fort Pierce, West Palm Beach, or Miami). The maps are available individually or in sets for $2.00 per copy. Maps can be ordered by

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mail from the U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Distribution, 1200 South Eads Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202, or the Branch of Distribution, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Orders must include a check or money order payable to the "U.S. Geological Survey."

The narrative report, "Atlantic Coast Ecological Inventory -- User's Guide and Information Base," includes detailed species information for the entire map series. It can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for $5.50.

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