

Gulf of Maine Coastal Program

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



For further information, please contact:

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The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, established in 1991 as part of a nationwide network of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program offices, focuses on protecting and restoring economically, recreationally, and ecologically important coastal fish and wildlife habitat through partnerships. Using existing scientific data along with biological expertise and state-of-the-art computer mapping and database management capabilities, Gulf of Maine Program biologists analyze data, identify and map important fish and wildlife habitat, and recommend and implement habitat protection and restoration measures. By sharing biological information, offering technical assistance and identifying funding opportunities, Gulf of Maine Program works with interested parties -- federal and state agencies, town officials, statewide conservation groups, local land trusts and watershed associations, angling clubs, industry representatives and willing landowners -- to protect the tremendous coastal fish and wildlife resources in the Gulf of Maine watershed. *(See reverse side for information on the Gulf of Maine watershed).*

Working in voluntary non-regulatory partnerships, the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has played a key role in:

- permanently protecting more than 94,950 acres of high value fish and wildlife habitat through fee and easement acquisition -- including 48 nesting islands, 106 coastal wetlands and associated upland buffer sites, 11 uplands, and 51 areas adjacent to wild Atlantic salmon rivers,
- protecting fish and wildlife habitat on two landscape-scale forest/wetland easement/acquisition projects totaling 1,092,000 acres that preclude residential development and ensure sustainable forestry,
- restoring more than 5,300 acres of habitat for migratory birds -- including 67 coastal wetlands, 6 grasslands, and 12 nesting islands,
- completing 60 river restoration projects to benefit searun fish -- including the removal of 12 dams on rivers and the installation or repair of 18 fish passage facilities at existing dams, and
- leveraging \$49.6 million in federal and \$92.7 million in non-federal funds for habitat protection and restoration.

The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program's habitat protection and restoration initiatives depend on funding and technical support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as many other state and federal agencies, non-governmental conservation groups, local land trusts and watershed associations, angling groups, landowners and nearby residents. Key national and state partners include other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices in Maine, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources, Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, Maine State Planning Office, Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, Casco Bay National Estuary Project, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, The Nature Conservancy (Maine Chapter), The Trust for Public Lands, American Rivers, Maine Rivers, Atlantic Salmon Federation -- Maine Council, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Restore America's Estuaries, Coastal Conservation Association and Trout Unlimited.

Contact the Gulf of Maine Program or check our web site for fact sheets and other detailed information about specific habitat analysis, public outreach, and habitat protection/restoration efforts.