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Basic Mission Presentation : United States Fish & Wildlife Service, January 12, 2011

Maine Department of Transportation

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management



Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation



Bureau of Reclamation



U.S. Geological Survey



Bureau of Indian Affairs

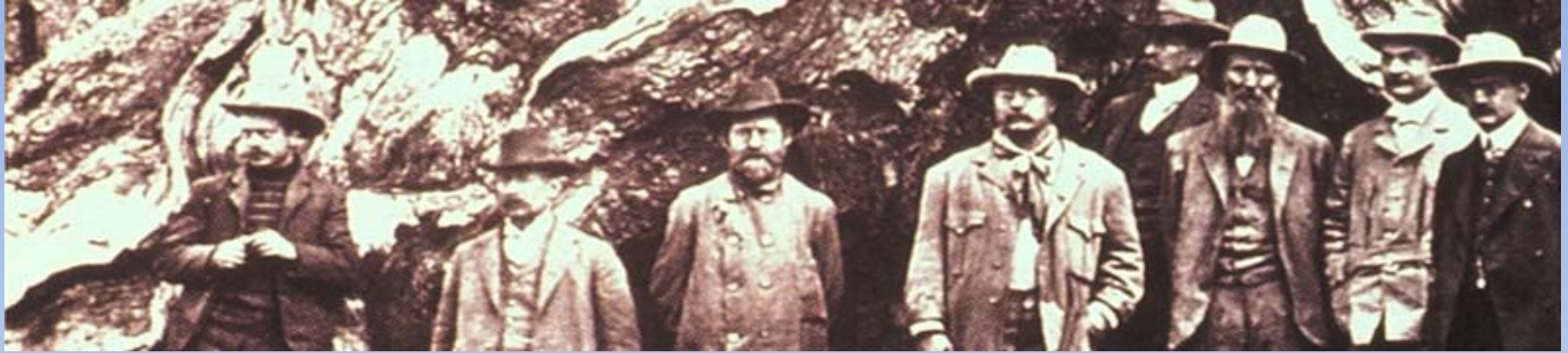


Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement



Office of the Secretary

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."



- **1871 - U.S. Fish Commission to study the decrease of the nation's food fishes and recommend ways to reverse the decline.**
- **1885 - Office of Economic Ornithology in the Department of Agriculture. The office studied the food habits and migratory patterns of birds, especially those that had an effect on agriculture. Renamed the Bureau of Biological Survey in 1905.**
- **1939 - Bureaus of Fisheries and Biological Survey were transferred to the Department of the Interior. In 1940, they were combined and named the Fish and Wildlife Service.**
- **1956 - Fish and Wildlife Act created the US Fish and Wildlife Service and established two bureaus, Sport Fish and Wildlife and Commercial Fisheries.**
- **1970 - Bureau of Commercial Fisheries was transferred to the Department of Commerce and renamed the National Marine Fisheries Service.**
- **The Service employs approximately 7,500 people at facilities across the country including a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., eight regional offices, and nearly 700 field units. Among these are national wildlife refuges, national fish hatcheries and management assistance offices, law enforcement and ecological services field stations.**

Programs

Administrative and Support Functions

Endangered Species

Fish and Habitat Conservation

International Affairs

Law Enforcement

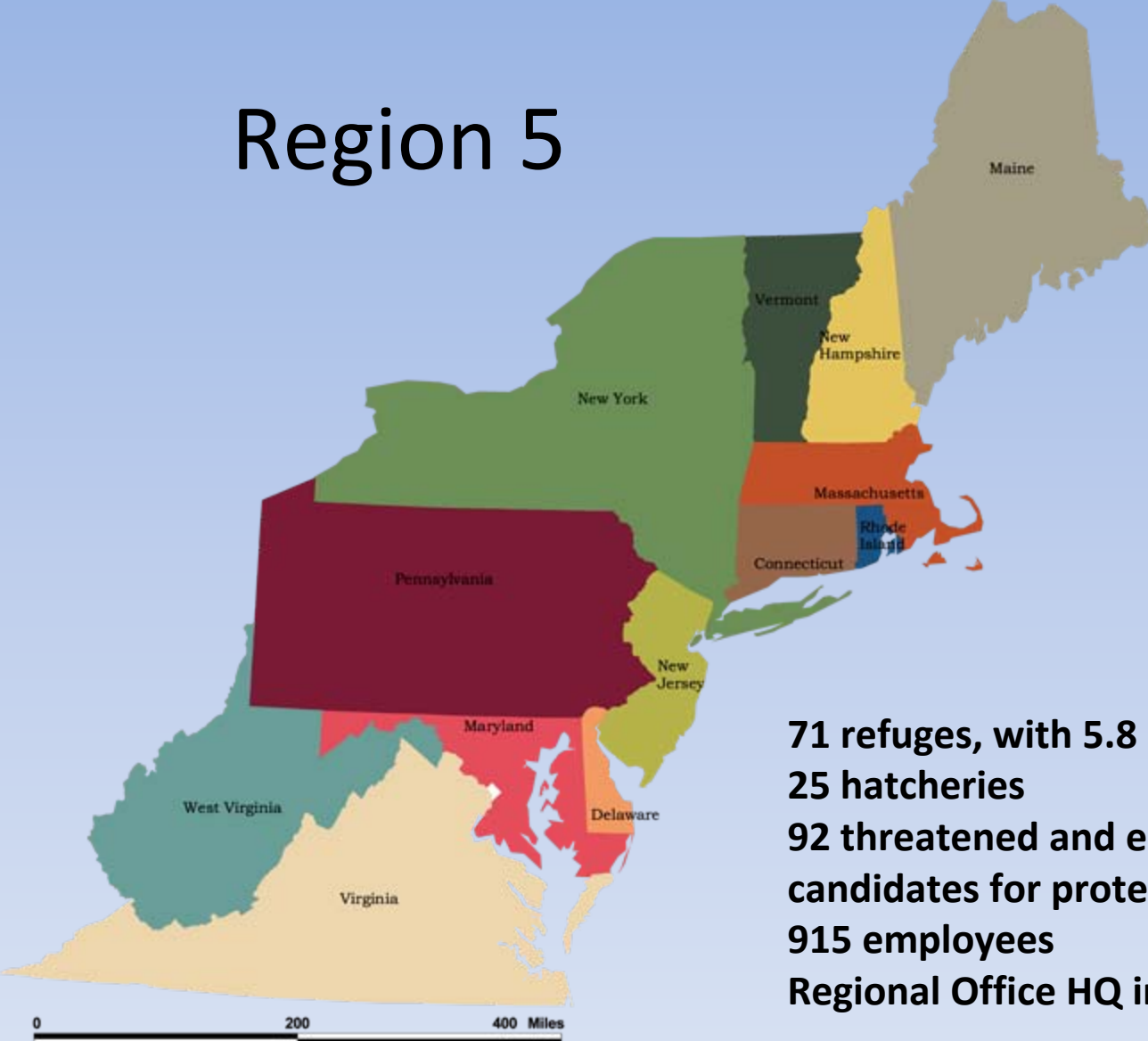
Migratory Birds

National Refuge System

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration



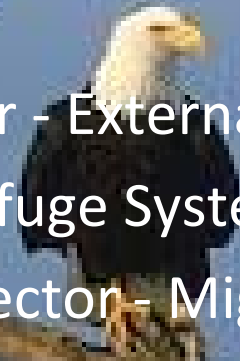
Region 5



71 refuges, with 5.8 million visitors annually
25 hatcheries
92 threatened and endangered species and 11
candidates for protection
915 employees
Regional Office HQ in Hadley, Mass.

Regional Directorate Team

- **Marvin E. Moriarty** - Regional Director
- **Wendi Weber** - Deputy Regional Director
- **Sal Amato** - Special Agent in Charge - Law Enforcement
- **Richard O. Bennett, Ph.D.** - Regional Scientist
- **James G. Geiger, Ph.D.** - Assistant Regional Director – Fisheries
- **Kyla Hastie** - Assistant Regional Director - External Affairs
- **Tony Léger** - Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System
- **Sherry Morgan** - Assistant Regional Director - Migratory Birds and State Programs
- **Paul Phifer, Ph.D.** - Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services
- **Henry Chang** - Assistant Regional Director - Budget and Administration





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

Conserving the Nature of America

Search



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Hatchery System](#)

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Species](#)

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[Climate Change and
FHC](#)

[Habitat and Resource
Conservation](#)

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Antioch Dunes Evening Primrose

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

America's fish and aquatic resources are among the world's richest, and provide substantial social, economic, and ecological benefits to the Nation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation (FHC) is committed to working with partners to:

- **Healthy fish and wildlife**

Headwaters



[Bryan Arroyo, Assistant
Director
Headwaters Editorial](#)

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Health Plan](#)

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Ecological Services

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Welcome!

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We strive to work with a variety of entities, agencies, and private landowners to accomplish this mission.

The Northeast Region, with its diverse habitats and burgeoning human population offers tremendous challenges for the Ecological Services biologists in our 15 field offices. Oil spills, habitat degradation, invasive species, barrier dams and other factors too numerous to mention are all working against our fish and wildlife resources. Biologists work to reduce or eliminate these threats through habitat restoration, endangered species recovery activities, identification of wetland habitats, assessing and eliminating the impacts of contaminants, minimizing construction impacts, dam removal and fish passage improvements. They are all part of the biologists' daily activities.

They work with a wide variety of partners to accomplish their mission. State fish and wildlife agencies, private conservation groups, federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and many industry groups and private landowners are all included in the conservation effort underway in the Northeast, and examples are many and varied. County governments protect piping plovers on Long Island; Conservation groups work with us to save estuarine habitat on Chesapeake Bay; wetland restoration projects abound on private land and contaminated habitat is being restored in virtually all of our states. The challenge will only increase with time, as will the commitment of our Ecological Services biologists to meet it.



Restored Wetland on Mispillion River
Credit: USFWS



Bog turtle
Credit: USFWS



Breaching West Henniker Dam
Credit: USFWS



MAINE

Ecological Services Offices	Refuges and Wildlife Offices
★ Gulf of Maine Coastal Ecosystems Program	✧ Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge
★ Maine Field Office --Maine Contaminants Site	✧ Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge
Fisheries Offices	✧ Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge
★ Maine Fisheries Program Complex	✧ Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge
--Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery	✧ Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
--Green Lake National Fish Hatchery	✧ Sunkhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
--Maine Fisheries Resource Office	
Law Enforcement Offices	
★ Maine Law Enforcement Office	

Maine

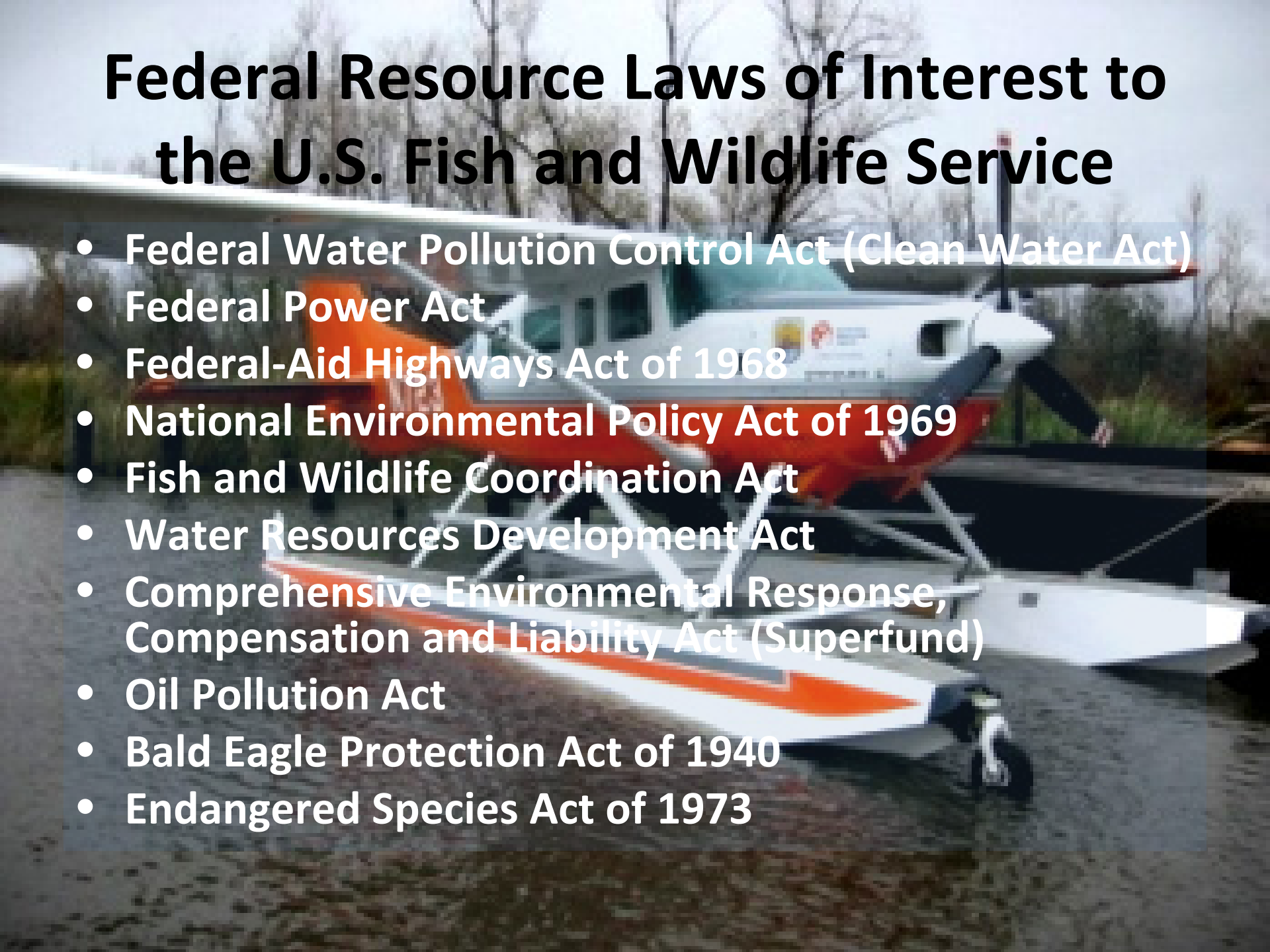
Canada



New Hampshire



Federal Resource Laws of Interest to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act)
 - Federal Power Act
 - Federal-Aid Highways Act of 1968
 - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
 - Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
 - Water Resources Development Act
 - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund)
 - Oil Pollution Act
 - Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940
 - Endangered Species Act of 1973
- 
- A small white and red biplane is parked on a paved surface. The plane has a white upper fuselage and a red lower fuselage. It has a high-wing configuration and a tail boom. The background shows some trees and a cloudy sky.



The (NEPA) provides the basic national charter for protection of the environment.

- NEPA is intended to ensure that information about environmental effects of an Agency's proposal and alternative actions are available to agency decision makers.
- The Fish and Wildlife Service provides technical and biological information for use in the NEPA review process.
- Through these efforts, the Service seeks to ensure that impacts to fish and wildlife resources are adequately described and that mitigation needs are met.

‘Natuurbrug Zanderij Crailoo’ (Ecoduct) near Hilversum, The Netherlands



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Clean Water Act Section 404

Habitat and Resource Conservation



Habitat and Resource
Conservation Home

Kids and Educators

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Clean Water Act Section
404

Coastal Barrier
Resources Act

Coastal Program

Communication Towers

Fish and Wildlife
Coordination Act

Hydropower Licensing

Marine Mammals

National Environmental
Policy Act

National Wetlands
Inventory

Oil and Gas



In 1972, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act established a program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 defined navigable waters of the United States as "those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tides and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or maybe susceptible to use to transport interstate or foreign commerce." The Clean Water Act built on this definition and defined waters of the United States to include tributaries to navigable waters, interstate wetlands, wetlands which could affect interstate or foreign commerce, and wetlands adjacent to other waters of the United States.

HOT TOPICS

[Rapanos/Carabell
Supreme Court
Decision](#)

[Protecting
Wetlands
Framework](#)

**Wetland
Delineation and
Classification**

- [1987 Corps
Delineation
Manual](#)
- [Hydric Soils
List](#)
- [Classification
of Wetlands
and Deepwater
Habitats of the
United States](#)



[Eagle Guidelines Home](#)

[Step-by-Step Guidance
to Avoid Disturbing Bald
Eagles](#)

[Distance Buffers for
Recreational Activities](#)

[Bald Eagle Natural
History & Sensitivity](#)

[Additional Conservation
Measures](#)

[National Bald Eagle
Management Guidelines](#)

[Bald & Golden Eagle
Protection Act](#)

Bald Eagle Management Guidelines and Conservation Measures

On August 9, 2007, bald eagles were removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species and, therefore, they are not protected under the Endangered Species Act. However, bald eagles remain protected under the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) (Eagle Act). The Eagle Act prohibits anyone from "taking" bald eagles. Among other actions, "take" includes disturbance of bald eagles.

"Disturb" is the form of take that is most likely to occur and is the most ambiguous. Therefore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepared National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines. These Guidelines are voluntary and were prepared to help landowners, land managers and others meet the intent of the Eagle Act and avoid disturbing bald eagles.

This website steps you through the Bald Eagle Management Guidelines so that you can determine whether new or intermittent activities may disturb nesting bald eagles, and thus be in violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The step-by-step guidance on this website is specific to bald eagles in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

Website Contents

- Recreational activities (hiking, canoeing, camping, fishing, hunting) near an eagle nest: [voluntary measures that you can take to avoid disturbing nesting bald eagles and their young](#).
- New or intermittent activities (other than recreation) near an eagle nest: [Step-by-Step Guidance to Assist in Determining Whether Disturbance of Nesting Bald Eagles is Likely](#).
- [Bald Eagle Natural History and Sensitivity Information](#).
- [Additional conservation measures to benefit bald eagles](#) for concerned citizens, agencies, and others who desire to promote bald eagle conservation.
- [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office](#) for assistance.

National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines

At a Glance:

Two factors have the most influence on how eagles respond to human activity: the visibility of the activity from the eagle nest and the degree to which similar activities are already occurring near the nest. Therefore, the Guidelines use the following general recommendations to avoid disturbing nesting bald eagles:

- (1) keep a distance between the activity and the nest (distance buffers), and
- (2) maintain forested or natural areas between the activity and the nest tree (landscape buffers).
- (3) For some activities, the only effective measure is to avoid certain activities during the nesting season (timing buffers).



1973 Endangered Species Act

- Focuses on protecting species in their natural environments
- Gives joint authority to the FWS and NOAA.

Endangered Species

Summary of Animals listings

Animal species listed in this state and that occur in this state (9 species)

<u>Status</u>	Species
T	Lynx, Canada (Contiguous U.S. DPS) (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>)
T	Plover, piping except Great Lakes watershed (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)
E	Salmon, Atlantic Expanded Gulf of Maine DPS (<i>Salmo salar</i>)
E	Sea turtle, leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)
E	Sturgeon, shortnose (<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>)
E	Tern, roseate northeast U.S. nesting pop. (<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>)
E	Whale, finback (<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>)
E	Whale, humpback (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>)
E	Whale, right (<i>Balaena glacialis (incl. australis)</i>)

Plant species listed in this state and that occur in this state (3 species)

<u>Status</u>	Species
E	Lousewort, Furbish (<i>Pedicularis furbishiae</i>)
T	Orchid, eastern prairie fringed (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)
T	Pogonia, small whorled (<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>)



Key sections of the ESA

- **Section 4** - Listing and recovery of species, and designation of critical habitat.
- **Section 6** - Authorizes the Service to provide financial assistance to States through cooperative agreements supporting the conservation of endangered and threatened species.
- **Section 7** - Requires all Federal agencies, in "consultation" with the Service, to insure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.
- **Section 9** - Prohibited actions, including the import and export, take, possession of illegally taken species, transport, or sale of endangered or threatened species.
- **Section 10** - Guidelines under which a permit may be issued to authorize activities prohibited by Section 9, such as take of endangered or threatened species.

Interagency Cooperation

- Affirmative Conservation Mandate
 - Section 7(a)(1) – Federal agencies shall use their programs for the conservation of endangered species and threatened species
 - Conservation: the use of methods and procedures to bring any endangered species or threatened species to the point where provisions of the ESA are longer necessary.
- Duty to Avoid Jeopardy and Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat
 - Section 7(a)(2) – Federal agencies must ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat

Key Definitions:

- **Endangered** - An animal or plant in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- **Threatened** - An animal or plant likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- **Critical habitat** - Specific geographic areas, whether occupied by listed species or not, that are determined to be essential for the conservation and management of listed species, and that have been formally described in the Federal Register.

More Key Definitions

- **Take** - "The term 'take' means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." Section 3(18)
 - **Harass:** An intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.
 - **Harm:** An act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.
- **Candidate species** – plants and animals for which the Service has sufficient information on their biological status and threats to propose them as endangered or threatened, but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities. They receive no legal protection and the use of the term does not necessarily mean that the species will eventually be proposed for listing as a threatened or endangered species.
- **Recovery plan** - A document that serves as a guide for activities to be undertaken by Federal, State, or private entities in helping to recover and conserve endangered or threatened species.



Effect Determinations

The background image shows a river scene. In the upper portion, a bridge with a concrete railing spans the river. Below the bridge, a large, dark, arched culvert is visible, with water flowing through it. The riverbank is covered with rocks and some sparse vegetation. The overall scene is somewhat overcast.

1. No Effect to listed species or designated critical habitat
 - Project and effects are outside of species' range
2. May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
3. May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect


```
graph TD; A[May Affect] --> B[Not Likely to Adversely Affect *]; A --> C[Likely to Adversely Affect]; B --> D[Informal ESA Consultation]; C --> E[Formal ESA Consultation];
```

May Affect

BEFORE

Not Likely to
Adversely
Affect *

Likely to
Adversely
Affect

Informal ESA
Consultation

Formal ESA
Consultation

* OR Wholly Beneficial



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Habitat and Resource Conservation

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[National Environmental Policy Act](#)

[National Wetlands Inventory](#)

[Oil and Gas](#)

Celebrating 100,000 acres of Wetland Reserve Program Enrollment in California



Craig Isola, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

OUR MISSION

To efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration of private lands through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal Trust Species

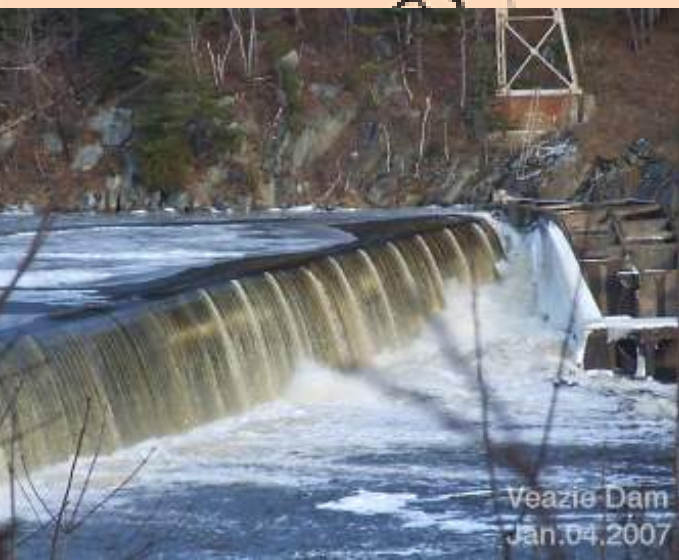
Program Links

[Farm Bill](#)

[Partners](#)

Federal Power Act, Hydropower Licensing

Penobscot River Restoration Project



Penobscot River Restoration Project

- The Penobscot River had annual salmon runs estimated at 50,000-70,000 adults prior to 1830.
- This project will allow Atlantic salmon to regain half of their historical habitat in the river with just one dam passage (Milford Dam), which will have a new fish lift installed.
- Re-establish the river's historic connection to the ocean, dramatically improving access to nearly 1,000 miles of river habitat.
- Restore 37% of the Penobscot watershed's historical lake habitat, which with the already accessible Orland River would make 42% of historic lake habitat available.

Maine Fishery Resources Office

The Maine Fishery Resources Office provides management coordination and technical assistance to state, federal, tribal and non-government partners involved in the recovery and restoration of anadromous fish in Maine.

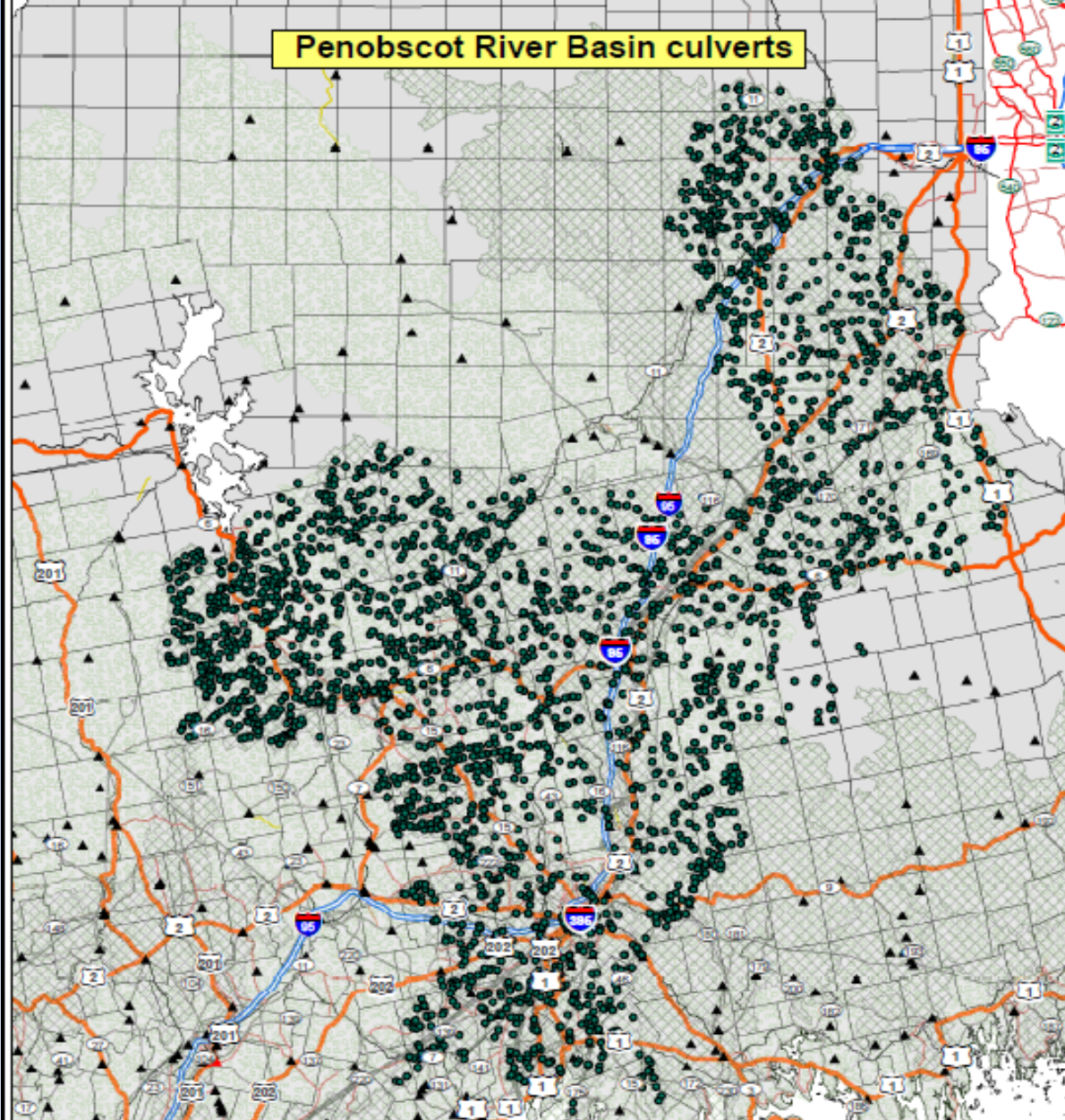




Coastal Program

- **Northeast Region Coastal Program Goals**
 - The Region 5 Coastal Program mission is, "working with others to protect, restore and enhance coastal fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for public benefit."
- **To achieve our mission, we:**
 - Strategically identify and prioritize coastal habitats and threats
 - Build partnerships to achieve more than we could on our own
 - Leverage funds to maximize on-the-ground results
 - Share our expertise in conservation biology, habitat protection and restoration, GIS data and analysis, education, and obtaining funding

Penobscot River Basin culverts



- Legend**
- Penobscot_Barriers_2010b1_WithRoadsData
 - ▨ ATS Critical_Habitat_by_HUC10
 - ▨ ATS GOM_DPS
 - ▲ existing dams-MDE/ACE
 - ▲ removed dams



0 10 20 30 Miles



Data from USFWS, MDE/ACE & MNAP.

Area of detail

Preliminary Penobscot Survey Results



- 1,524 culverts surveyed
- 707 culverts were AOP impaired = “severe” = outlet drops, inlet blockages, velocity barriers, turbulence, shallow depth
- 149 of 578 DOT (State highway or State aid) culverts – “severe”

2604-Sebec, Morrison Brook, Rte 6

