



Gulf of Maine  
Council on the  
Marine Environment

## Joint News Release From National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Gulf of Maine Council

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### **NOAA Awards \$400,000 for Habitat Restoration Along the Gulf of Maine**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a \$400,000 grant to the Gulf of Maine Council as part of a cooperative three-year partnership to restore coastal fisheries habitat in the Gulf of Maine. The Gulf of Maine Council/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership provides funding for projects in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, as well as the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in Canada.

The partnership continues efforts that began in 2001 between the Gulf of Maine Council and the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program. Since 2001, the partnership has funded 43 restoration projects totaling \$1.2 million in three states and two Canadian provinces that border the Gulf of Maine. The new funding will be used to improve fish passage, manage invasive species and restore water flow to tidally restricted salt marshes.

“Our continued partnership with the Gulf of Maine Council demonstrates our commitment to providing support to community-based habitat restoration efforts,” said retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. “These habitat restoration efforts support our approach of ecosystem-based management, and promote local stewardship of the habitats that sustain our nation’s fishery resources.”

“The coastal wetlands restored under the Gulf of Maine partnership provide critical habitat for commercial and recreational fisheries and offer other benefits such as filtering of pollutants and protection from flooding,” said Kathleen Leyden, director of the Maine Coastal Program, and member of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. “Productive coastal wetlands are critical to sustaining long-term health of the Gulf of Maine.”

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The NOAA Restoration Center Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) is a financial and technical assistance program that promotes strong partnerships at the national, regional, and local level to restore fisheries habitat. NOAA CRP works with organizations and government to support locally-driven habitat restoration projects in marine, estuarine and riparian areas. NOAA CRP funds on-the-ground habitat restoration projects that (1) offer educational and social benefits for citizens and their communities, and (2) provide long-term ecological benefits for fishery resources. Since 1996, more than 900 projects in 26 states have been implemented using NOAA funding and leveraged funding from national and regional habitat restoration partners.

Each year, NOAA awards approximately \$900 million in grants to members of the academic, scientific, and business communities to assist the agency in fulfilling its mission to study the Earth's natural systems in order to predict environmental change, manage ocean resources, protect life and property, and provide decision makers with reliable scientific information. NOAA goals and programs reflect a commitment to these basic responsibilities of science and service to the nation for the past 35 years.

In December 1989, the governors and premiers of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia signed a landmark agreement creating the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC). The Council's efforts are focused on promoting sustainable development of marine and coastal resources, raising public awareness about the Gulf of Maine, and cultivating support for stewardship at the local level.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

Community-based Restoration Program: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>

Gulf of Maine Council's website: [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org)

Gulf of Maine restoration: [www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatrestoration](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatrestoration).