

Wetland Benefits Snapshot

Greater Seacoast and North Shore Region

A Custom Snapshot Product
 Region includes: Essex County, MA; Rockingham County, NH; Strafford County, NH; York County, ME
COASTAL COUNTY SNAPSHOTS
www.csc.noaa.gov/snapshots/

Protecting Wetlands = Coastal Communities That Are Safer, Cleaner, and More Economically Productive

Healthy wetlands provide more than just a pretty view. Wetlands are a pivotal part of the natural system, supplying tremendous benefits for coastal communities. Even small acreages can provide some level of benefit. The location, health, and size of individual wetlands also play a role. This snapshot demonstrates three key benefits of wetlands in the Greater Seacoast and North Shore Region.

13%

208,934 acres of this region is wetland



Based on 2006 NOAA land cover.

More Economically Productive: Wetlands Support Fishing Economies

Coastal wetlands provide habitat for many aquatic species that contribute to local food supplies and fishing-related industries.

In addition to providing a base for commercial fishing jobs and revenue, wetlands also support recreational and charter fishing. These economic benefits extend beyond county boundaries.

Commercial Fishing	Greater Seacoast and North Shore Region
Jobs	2,454
Output from businesses	over \$122 million*
Revenue from self-employed	\$60.2 million

*Data for New Hampshire counties has been suppressed and are not included in this value.

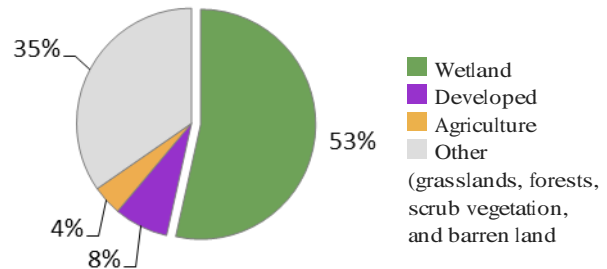
Based on 2009 ENOW and 2009 U.S. Census Nonemployer Statistics.

Safer: Wetlands Reduce Flood Impacts

10% (166,552 acres) of this region is in the floodplain.

Wetlands located in coastal and riverine floodplains can protect people and their property, community infrastructure, and agricultural investments from floods. Wetlands act as natural sponges, holding floodwaters and lowering flood heights.

Greater Seacoast and North Shore Region Floodplain



Based on best available as of 2010 FEMA Flood Zones (100-year); 2006 NOAA land cover.

Created: August, 2012



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 LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

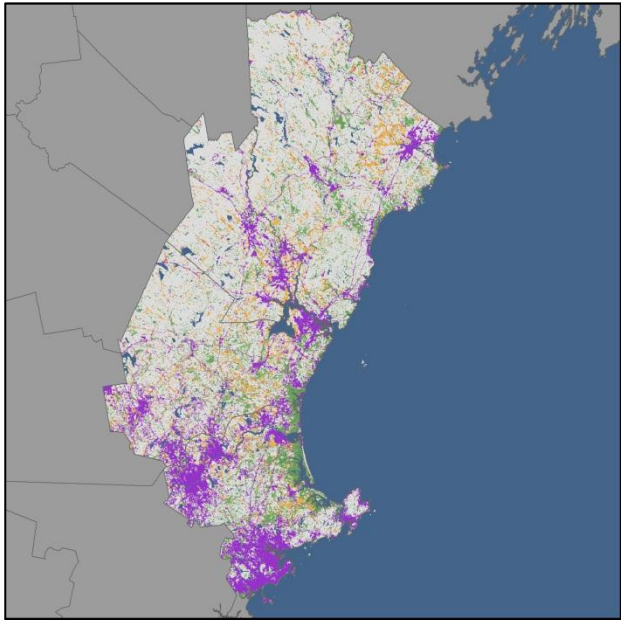
Cleaner: Wetlands Improve Water Quality

Runoff associated with concrete, asphalt, rooftops, and other impervious surfaces is a leading cause of water pollution.

Wetlands near developed and agricultural areas trap pollutants and excess nutrients in surface runoff, keeping water bodies cleaner. This natural filtering helps prevent water use restrictions, such as beach and shellfish closures, and reduces the need for costly treatment systems.

Based on 2006 NOAA land cover.

- Wetland
- Developed
- Agriculture
- Other (grasslands, forests, scrub vegetation, and barren land)



Next Steps

Understanding how wetlands benefit a coastal community can provide strong incentives for wetland protection. The following suggestions and resources provide guidance in moving forward with these efforts.

Integrate wetland protection priorities into community planning – Encouraging wetland protection and development in appropriate places makes communities more resilient. Resources are available to help communities incorporate wetland protection considerations into existing planning efforts.

- Introducing Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience training (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/green.html>)
- Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk training (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/roadmap>)

Prioritize wetlands for protection – Additional factors can influence wetland protection priorities. Consult local experts regarding wetland size, location, and quality; fish and wildlife considerations; regulatory requirements; and tourism, recreation, and other benefits. Resources are available to help communities with the selection and prioritization process, including:

- C-CAP land cover data (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/landcover/>) and online atlas (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/landcoveratlas/>)
- National Wetlands Inventory data (<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/index.html>)
- Habitat Priority Planner tool (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/hpp/>)
- Essential Fish Habitat Mapper (<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/protection/efh/habitatmapper.html>)

To learn effective ways to use spatial data and tools in your conservation efforts, consider the GIS Tools for Strategic Conservation Planning course (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/gisforscp>) for your organization.

Discover additional helpful resources – More tools, data, and information, including funding sources, are highlighted on the frequently asked questions page (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/snapshots/faq/wetland-benefits.pdf>)

Data Sources for This Snapshot

- **Land Cover Data** (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/ccapregional/index.html>) – NOAA
- **Flood Zones** (<http://msc.fema.gov>) – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- **Economics Data** (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/enow>) – Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)
- **Nonemployer Data** (<http://www.census.gov/econ/nonempolyer/index.html>) – U.S. Census