



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### THE COASTAL PROGRAM FY 2002 HIGHLIGHTS



The **Coastal Program**'s mission is to conserve healthy coastal ecosystems for the benefit of fish, wildlife and people. It accomplishes this through cooperative partnerships that identify, restore and protect habitat in priority coastal areas. It works with a variety of partners, including other Federal and State agencies, local and tribal governments, businesses, conservation organizations and private landowners.

The following are a few examples of Coastal projects from around the country.

---

#### REGION 1



Volunteers help restore habitat for Forrester's and California least terns (East Bay Regional Park District).

**Tern Island Bird Nesting Habitat Enhancement in California:** The San Francisco Bay Program partnered with the East Bay Regional Park District to enhance 10,000 to 15,000 square feet of an island in a District-owned and managed former salt pond near Hayward, Alameda County, California. Volunteers and students under District supervision removed weeds, placed filter fabric, and spread salt, sand and oyster shell to encourage nesting by waterbirds. The East Bay Regional Park District anticipates that this enhancement effort could result in over 300 new nests for two bird species, Forrester's terns and the endangered California least tern.

**Estuarine Habitat Restoration at Red Salmon Slough in Washington:** Restoration of estuarine habitat is identified as the highest priority action in the Recovery Plan for the threatened Nisqually Chinook salmon. The Puget Sound Program is contributing to this goal by providing technical and cost-share assistance to the Nisqually Indian Tribe to restore 31 acres of salt marsh at Red Salmon Slough. The project restores part of a 310-acre site known as Braget Farm. Braget Farm is located at the mouth of the Nisqually River and was recently acquired by the Tribe. The project complements habitat management of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, which is across the river from Braget Farm and shares management responsibilities with the Tribe for the site. The project provides important habitat for rearing of juvenile salmonids, benefitting Chinook, chum, and coho stocks of the Nisqually River watershed, as well as other estuarine dependent fish species. Coastal habitat dependent migratory birds will also benefit from this restoration of salt marsh, mudflat, and tidal slough habitats.

## REGION 2



### **Dickinson Bay Colonial Waterbird Nesting and Wetland Restoration**

**Project:** Along the Texas Coast, erosion has essentially eliminated the Dickinson Bay islands which had provided nesting substrate for ground nesting colonial waterbirds such as the least tern, gull-billed tern, royal tern, black skimmer, American oystercatcher, and Caspian terns. The loss of shoreline and emergent marsh has altered plant communities/habitats throughout the project area.

In FY 2002, the Dickinson Bay Islands Restoration Project began the process of replacing three islands (29 acres of habitat) that have been lost due to erosion over the past six decades. The restored islands will provide important intertidal marsh habitat, colonial waterbird roosting/nesting habitat, oyster reefs, and essential erosion protection for the Texas Nature Conservancy's Attwater Prairie Chicken Preserve. About 10 acres, or a third of the project size, becomes intertidal marsh. The restoration plan also

includes establishing slightly elevated areas with shell fragments or fine gravel and even higher elevation shrub/tree habitats. Approximately 1,200 cubic yards of oyster shell will be provided on the northwest end of each island to create approximately three acres of oyster reef. Coastal Program partners include the Galveston Bay Foundation, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Reliant Energy, West End Marine, Mainland Concrete, the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office, NOAA Fisheries, and the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program.

## REGION 3

### **Population Assessment of Sora Rails, Yellow Rails, and Virginia Rails in the Kakagon/Bad River Wetland Complex, Wisconsin:**

An important aspect of the Coastal Program is the assessment of the health of coastal resources. For example, the Great Lakes Coastal Program, with tribal, State, and Federal partners, conducted surveys to determine population size and distribution of sora, Virginia and yellow rail populations.

In addition to providing a long-term monitoring strategy for rails, the study provides insight into the wild rice/rail/rice worm relationship as an indicator of the overall health of this important coastal wetland and cultural resource. The study area is the 16,000-acre Kakagon/Bad River wetland complex. The largest estuary system remaining in the upper Great Lakes, this wetland complex has been an integral part of the ancestral home of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa for generations. It has also been designated as a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

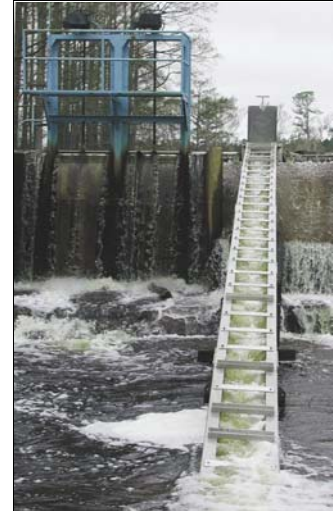


Service personnel inventory Kakagon rails with tribal partners (USFWS).

## REGION 4

**Holt's Lake Fish Pass Ladder, Albemarle Pamlico Coastal Program, North Carolina:** An aluminum fish ladder was installed at Holt's Lake Dam in the early spring of 2002 in order to provide fish passage for American shad (also known as white shad), hickory shad, and alewife (also known as river herring). The Albemarle Pamlico Coastal Program provided the material and technical expertise and the lake owner installed and will maintain the ladder.

American shad, hickory shad and alewife are anadromous fish that live in the ocean for most of their lives but return to fresh water streams to spawn. The ladder should provide a highway for these popular fish to return to their historic rearing grounds for many years. There are 104 miles of tributary stream upstream of Holt's Lake Dam, including Black Creek and its tributaries. Holt's Lake Dam is in Johnston County, North Carolina.



Coastal funds supported the installation of this fish ladder, providing 104 miles of habitat to anadromous fish (USFWS).

## REGION 5



Cove Brook stream restoration (USFWS).

**Maine's Atlantic Salmon Rivers Private Landowner Incentive Program:** In FY 2001, the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program was awarded \$184,000 from the Private Landowner Incentive Program to assist individuals with restoration projects on Maine's Atlantic salmon rivers. In FY 2002, the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program provided funds from the FY 2001 grant to 11 small and large private landowners for restoration projects on eight of Maine's Atlantic salmon rivers (fencing, in-channel stream restoration, dam removal, road closures, tree plantings, fencing, elimination of non-point source pollution, and erosion control). These projects have contributed to the recovery of Atlantic salmon by eliminating significant impacts to spawning and rearing habitat and by restoring access to approximately 22 miles of historic habitat. All projects are protected by 10 - 20 year cooperative conservation agreements with private landowners.

This program was built on the strong capacity of local watershed councils and non-profit conservation groups in Maine. The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program works with private landowners, non-profits, and State agencies to implement these restoration projects. The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program plays a critical role by providing strong technical capability in assessing and designing riparian and stream channel restoration projects. The Private Landowner Incentive Program has helped Gulf of Maine Coastal Program link with agricultural, forestry and private landowners in downeast Maine that were once reluctant to work with State or Federal agencies on restoration projects, but are now eager to complete additional projects to aid in the recovery of Atlantic salmon.

## REGION 7



This weir on Fish Creek blocks juvenile salmon from thousands of acres of productive rearing grounds (USFWS).

**Fish Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project, Alaska:** One of the oldest and most popular fisheries in upper Cook Inlet, Fish Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for sockeye, coho, chinook, pink and chum salmon. Fish have had difficulty moving upstream since the installation of a weir at the creek's origin – the outlet of Big Lake – more than 20 years ago. The weir was constructed to stabilize lake levels for recreational homes, but it also prevents salmon fry from moving upstream to traditional lake rearing grounds after emergence from spawning areas. This partnership with the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and Alaska Department of Fish and Game is resulting in the restructuring of the weir and the construction of a roughened channel downstream, allowing salmon fry rearing once again in the 2,500-acre Big Lake system.

---

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**800/344 WILD**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

**For more information about the Coastal Program, contact our Branch of Habitat Restoration at: 703/358 2201, or visit us on the Internet at:**  
<http://www.fws.gov/cep/cepcode.html>

January 2003

