



Piping Plover and Least Tern Essential Habitats



Dataset Use: Maine Endangered Species Act (MESA), Essential Habitats (EH) Rule

Keywords: Piping Plover, Least Tern, EH, Essential Habitat, nesting

DESCRIPTION

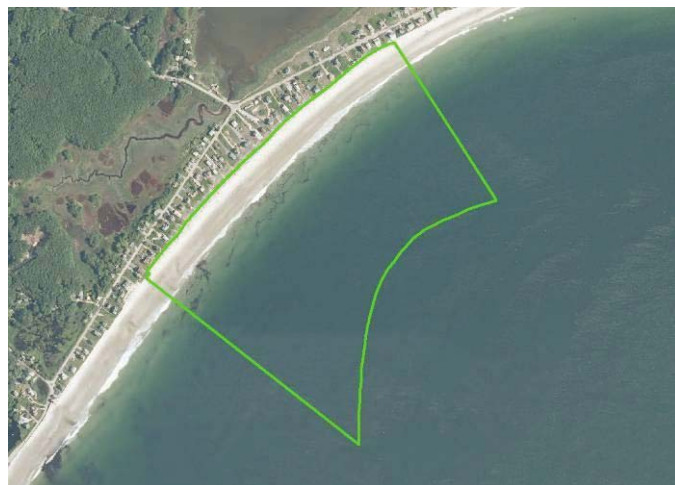
Piping plover and least tern essential habitat focuses on coastal wetlands and sand dune systems to maintain nesting, feeding, and brood-rearing habitats essential to conserving these species and to minimize human-related disturbance that can cause nest failure. "Nesting" means the presence of at least one PIPL/LETE nest, egg, or chick. A "Nesting, feeding and brood-rearing area" is a locality encompassing portions of coastal wetlands and coastal sand dune systems (including subtidal, intertidal, beach, and associated salt marshes and wetlands) and is used by at least one pair of nesting PIPL/LETE. Areas identified and mapped as essential habitat must have a record of nesting by at least one pair of piping plovers or least terns since 1986 and be considered essential to the achievement of the MDIFW management goals and objectives for piping plovers or least terns. This dataset contains locations for 15 PIPL/LETE nesting, feeding, and brood-rearing areas identified and mapped as essential habitat by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

PURPOSE

This dataset was developed to designate essential habitat for piping plovers and least terns. This designation provides special protection essential to the conservation of these species by maintaining nesting, feeding, and brood-rearing habitats and minimizing human-related disturbance that can cause nesting failure. Protection is focused on the coastal wetlands and coastal sand dune systems used by nesting piping plovers or least terns.

SOURCE HISTORY

General areas are identified from field surveys and habitat polygons are mapped from aerial imagery.



EXAMPLE OF PIPING PLOVER AND LEAST TERN ESSENTIAL HABITATS
LAYER AND IMAGERY (NAIP 2009)

ACCESS AND USE LIMITATIONS

Distribution of these data to other users by anyone other than Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), or Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems (MEGIS) is NOT authorized. Use of these data for identifying Piping Plover and Least Tern Essential Habitats under the Maine Endangered Species Act, Essential Habitats Rule, is the only use that is endorsed by MDIFW; other uses may or may not be valid.

These data are provided by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife solely for individual use or the use of a company or agency for the purpose stated. Boundaries may change as additional survey data become available. The designation of essential habitats is an ongoing process, where sites may be added, deleted, and/or revised following public rulemaking. As a result, information and maps will be periodically updated. To be certain the most current essential habitat maps and documents are consulted, users are advised to carefully monitor update notices and version dates. Landowners, project planners, municipalities, or state agencies considering a project in or near an Essential Habitat should immediately contact an MDIFW Regional Wildlife Biologist for assistance.



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

HABITAT DATASET FACT SHEET

GEOGRAPHIC EXTENT

Maine coastal areas.

(207) 941-4466 or visit our website
www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/habitat_data/requesting_data.htm

ACCURACY

This coverage contains both LINE and POLYGON topology and both are needed to accurately depict Piping Plover/Least Tern Essential Habitats. Essential Habitat depicted encompasses portions of the coastal sand dune system and associated coastal wetlands. The dataset meets "Data Standards for Maine Geographic Information Systems" (June 2002). The coverage contains no LABELERRORS, NODEERRORS, or REGIONERRORS. The spatial topology is CLEAN and free of errors. Compilation base data meets or exceeds National Map Accuracy Standards for 1:24,000 scale. Horizontal positional accuracy for these digital data is tested by visual comparison to the source.

UPDATE STATUS

Updates are on an "as needed" basis. Changes to this dataset are rare and need to go through rulemaking to be adopted.

FUTURE PLANS

New polygons were digitized but the Advisory Council did not approve adding them to the EH layer. Any polygons not in EH should be moved into ETSC. We are considering whether to move all EH polygons into ETSC (they would still be flagged as EH polygons, but the 3 EH layers and ETSC would be consolidated into a single layer).

NEXT SCHEDULED UPDATE

Unknown

CITATION

Habitat data layer fact sheet for Piping Plover and Least Tern Essential Habitats, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 650 State Street, Bangor, ME 04401

DATA ACCESS LOCATION(S)

MEGIS Data Catalog, State SQL Server, HMAP, MDEP Website

For more information about this and other habitat data layers, please contact the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Research and Assessment Section's Habitat Group at