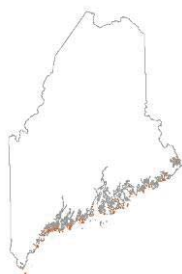




# MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

## HABITAT DATASET FACT SHEET

### Seabird Nesting Islands



**Dataset Use:** Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA)

**Keywords:** SNI, NRPA, SWH, seabird, nesting, island, significant habitat

### DESCRIPTION

Since 1976, islands have been surveyed periodically (not annually) for seabirds. Seabird nesting islands are defined as an island, ledge, or portion thereof in tidal waters that has 25 or more documented nests, adult seabirds associated with nests, or combination thereof (single species or aggregate of different species) in any nesting season since 1976 provided that the island, ledge, or portion thereof continues to have suitable nesting habitat. Alternatively, seabird nesting islands are also defined as an island, ledge, or portion thereof in tidal waters that has one or more documented nests of a seabird that is a Maine endangered or threatened species in any year since 1976 provided that the island, ledge, or portion thereof, continues to have suitable nesting habitat.

### PURPOSE

Seabird Nesting Islands have been formally adopted as a NRPA habitat through the MDEP regulatory process. SNI contains polygons that represent NRPA regulated coastal seabird nesting islands or portions thereof along the coast of Maine. This coverage is included in the statewide seabird nesting island database maintained by MDIFW. See metadata for "Seabird Islands (LUPC)" for descriptions of seabird islands under Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) jurisdiction (available through MDIFW). Other seabird nesting islands may exist that do not qualify for regulation under NRPA. The dataset is a subset of the statewide coverage. Data are representative of periodic survey efforts since 1976.

### SOURCE HISTORY

Observation data are currently stored in the ICENSUS database. The islands were identified from topographical maps and then outlined from the COAST base layer. MDIFW coastal island delineations were incorporated into HYD24. The data improved delineation of islands from the original 24k base COAST layer, added islands monitored by MDIFW (most fully or partially submerged at high tide), added an ISLANDID, and a CIREG indicator for each island. The depiction, ISLANDID and NAME attribution of seabird nesting areas in SNI is based on these coastal island polygons. The COAST layer is now incorporated into METWP24 layer.



EXAMPLE OF SEABIRD NESTING ISLANDS 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 Seabird Nesting Islands under Maine's Natural Resource Protection Act is the only use that is endorsed by MDIFW; other uses may or may not be valid.

Users must assume responsibility in determining the usability of these data for their purposes. Providing public access to wildlife habitat data is not intended as a substitute for consultation with MDIFW staff regarding permit applications or environmental reviews. If these data are to be used for Natural Resources Protection Act purposes, the user must contact Maine Department of Environmental Protection to obtain an official map of the area in question. Digital maps retain the accuracy of their source materials.



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### GEOGRAPHIC EXTENT

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Maine coastal islands and ledges.

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### ACCURACY

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Spatial topology in SNI meets "Data Standards for Maine Geographic Information Systems", June 2002. The dataset is free of LABELERRORS and NODEERRORS. Spatial topology is clean and free of errors. The coverage has been BUILT with polygon topology.

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### UPDATE STATUS

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

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### FUTURE PLANS

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There are changes planned to reduce the polygon for at least one island and add an island that changed from unorganized to organized regulatory jurisdiction. These updates will need to go through rulemaking to be adopted. There is not currently an effort to pursue these changes.

#### NEXT SCHEDULED UPDATE

Unknown.

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### CITATION

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*Habitat data layer fact sheet for Seabird Nesting Islands*, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 650 State Street, Bangor, ME 04401

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### DATA ACCESS LOCATION(S)

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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 (207) 941-4466 or visit our website [www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/habitat\\_data/requesting\\_data.htm](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/habitat_data/requesting_data.htm)