



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

HABITAT DATASET FACT SHEET

Shorebird Areas



Dataset Use: Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA)

Keywords: shorebird, NRPA, feeding, roosting, significant habitat



EXAMPLE OF SHOREBIRD AREAS LAYER AND IMAGERY (NAIP 2009)

DESCRIPTION

These polygons represent shorebird areas that are Significant Wildlife Habitat under the Natural Resources Protection Act. This dataset specifically address migratory shorebird coastal staging areas. Staging habitats are areas that meet shorebird feeding and roosting requirements during migration. These areas consist of coastal areas that provide both tidal mud flats rich in invertebrates for feeding and areas such as gravel bars and sand spits for roosting. Extensive field surveys began in 1993 to identify, map, and document use of feeding and roosting areas for shorebirds. Areas are labeled as feeding sites (F), roosting sites (R) or both (B). Polygon boundaries have been modified by the MDEP to align with the state 1:24,000 coastline. Polygons have been modified by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to include 100' and 250' disturbance protection zones around feeding and roosting sites, respectively, and to better align habitat boundaries with natural features based on high resolution, low tide imagery from Maine DMR. Areas of extensive development were clipped from the 250' disturbance protection zones around roosting areas.

PURPOSE

These data are provided by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for preliminary assessment to identify Significant Wildlife Habitat under the Natural Resources Protection Act. Users must assume responsibility in determining the usability of these data for their purposes.

SOURCE HISTORY

Polygon boundaries were mapped from DMR's low-tide imagery. Annual field surveys are used to rate each area.

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 Shorebird Areas 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 MDEP to obtain an official map of the area in question. Digital maps retain the accuracy of their source materials.

GEOGRAPHIC EXTENT

This dataset covers the Maine coast and islands region.



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

HABITAT DATASET FACT SHEET

ACCURACY

Polygons were digitized from high resolution orthoimagery at 1:3,000 scale. Each polygon boundary has been visually reviewed by the MDIFW Shorebird Biologist for accuracy. Habitat buffers were generated using a formal, written protocol. A subsample was visually inspected to check for process errors. Horizontal positional accuracy approximately 10 m; may be greater where high resolution (<1 m) orthoimagery is not available. Polygons were digitized at 1:3,000 scale. The intended scale of use is 1:6,000 or above. Habitat boundaries are subjective; even field sampling cannot produce an absolute boundary line and boundaries may shift over time due to natural changes in vegetation. However, all polygon boundaries were visually inspected by MDIFW species specialists familiar with ground conditions.

UPDATE STATUS

This dataset is reviewed annually and updates are made if survey results warrant.

FUTURE PLANS

Edits have been made from field data and are awaiting MDEP approval to publish. There are pending edits from each year since 2008.

NEXT SCHEDULED UPDATE

Unknown.

CITATION

Habitat data layer fact sheet for Shorebird Areas, 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 (207) 941-4466 or visit our website www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/habitat_data/requesting_data.htm