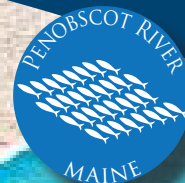


NOAA Habitat Focus Areas



NOAA selected ten Habitat Focus Areas to help communities protect & restore valuable natural resources that support local economies.

Background

Habitat Focus Areas are targeted places where NOAA is collaborating with communities to measurably improve the environment through NOAA's mission of science, service, and stewardship.

Ten Areas for Action

NOAA selected ten Habitat Focus Areas nationwide to help communities protect and restore valuable natural resources that support local economies. Experts in the HFAs design and implement solutions to address threats to coastal habitats, working with partners to achieve shared conservation goals within a 5-year period. Using habitat science and best practices, HFAs demonstrate a concrete application of NOAA's mission.

NOAA Habitat Blueprint

Habitat Focus Areas are part of the Habitat Blueprint: a framework for NOAA to address the growing challenge of habitat loss. Visit the Habitat Blueprint website at <https://www.HabitatBlueprint.noaa.gov>.

What's at stake?

Local economies are threatened by widespread loss and deterioration of coastal habitats. Habitat Focus Areas identify and implement solutions to address these threats and support the well-being of coastal communities.



Some of the threats facing HFAs include:

- increased wetland loss
- storms and sea-level rise
- toxic spills
- degraded water quality
- decline of habitat for endangered species

Many of these threats are increasing in scope and severity.

Habitat types facing threats include:

- Wetlands
- Seagrass beds
- Coral reefs
- Rivers
- Oyster reefs

Each HFA works in a unique, local context.

What are HFAs doing?

Experts in HFAs are applying science on-the-ground and in-the-water to restore and manage our valuable natural resources. HFAs are:

- Restoring habitats
- Maximizing investments
- Applying science on the ground
- Collaborating with communities



Restoring habitats

Maximizing
investments

Applying science
on the ground

Collaborating with
communities

Habitat Focus Areas

<https://www.HabitatBlueprint.noaa.gov>

Land & Seascape, Guam

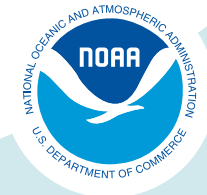
Photo: Dave Burdick



In Maryland, the Choptank River HFA is restoring oyster reefs and gauging success in creeks and rivers, by measuring the percent of river bottom covered by oysters over time.

« In the West Hawai'i (Big Island) HFA, NOAA partners are restoring habitat at Kiholo Fishpond, a historic source of local fish. Community volunteers remove invasive plants that reduce water quality and native fish habitat.

« In California's Russian River watershed, the HFA is investigating the river habitats, their water flows, and water availability for salmonids at different life stages. Ultimately, this project will improve water management for all water users, especially during times of drought.



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