

Beginning with HABITAT

An Approach to Conserving Maine's Natural
Space for Plants, Animals and People

www.beginningwithhabitat.org

April 11, 2008

Beginning with Habitat participant:

Enclosed per your request are two *Beginning with Habitat* (*BwH*) data CD's. *BwH* is a collaborative effort of state, federal, and private nonprofit agencies that provides towns, land trusts, and other local organizations with the best available information on the wildlife and plant habitats found in their area. These CD's include the wildlife and plant species occurrence data and the more generalized habitat data used to create *BwH* maps for Maine's organized towns. The CD's also include statewide data resulting from the USFWS habitat suitability model analysis for 91 endangered, threatened, and declining USFWS priority trust species and an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) version of the publication, *Beginning with Habitat: an Approach to Conserving Maine's Natural Landscape for Plants, Animals and People*, which describes the program in greater detail and offers general suggestions about how the data might be used for local conservation planning.

Important information regarding the data layers, USFWS habitat analysis model, and the agencies responsible for maintaining the data are included in the README_FIRST documents on the CD's and attached as a hard-copy in this package. We ask that you do not re-distribute this data. If you need technical assistance regarding a specific resource issue, please contact the respective agency as listed on the enclosure. Although the CD's included with this mailing contain the most up to date data available through *BwH*, these data sets are updated regularly as new information is incorporated. We advise that your organization check with *BwH* regularly to verify that the most recent data is being referenced. The *BwH* staff is available to provide informational presentations regarding effective approaches to incorporating this data into local land use and habitat conservation planning. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation or receiving further assistance, please contact Steve Walker at 207-287-5254. If you have questions about the data after reading the accompanying information, you may contact Jason Czapiga at 207-561-5620.

****NOTE: Data requested for Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA) purposes (such as inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, seabird nesting islands, shorebird areas, and tidal waterfowl and wading bird habitat) should be obtained from Maine DEP. Visit their website to view letter-sized PDF-format maps showing all NRPA data per town (<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docstand/nrpa/birdhabitat/index.htm>)****

Thank you for your interest in *Beginning with Habitat*.

Enclosure



The Nature
Conservancy

MAINE
AUDUBON

Maine Coast Heritage Trust
A Statewide Land Conservation Organization



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Beginning with Habitat CONTACT INFORMATION:

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REQUEST ADDITIONAL PAPER MAPS:

With each presentation, you may request an additional set of paper maps at no charge. Please contact Steve Walker or Bethany Atkins to request this material.

REQUEST DIGITAL DATA (GIS DATA):

If you have GIS capabilities, you may request a CD containing digital data at no charge. Please contact Steve Walker or Bethany Atkins to request this material.

UPDATED TOWN/REGION MAPS AVAILABLE:

To view updated maps of any towns/region go to www.beginningwithhabitat.org, go to 'The Maps', then 'Request Maps.' Select the letter of the town/region you are interested in. All up-to-date maps will be viewable in PDF format. This website is updated as new maps are created, and as older maps become unavailable. *NOTE: Not all towns/regions will have updated maps available.*

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION ACT (NRPA) INFORMATION:

Data requested for NRPA purposes (seabird nesting islands, high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitats, and shorebird feeding and staging areas) go through Maine DEP. Visit their website to view letter-sized PDF-format maps showing all NRPA data per town (<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docstand/nrpa/birdhabitat/index.htm>).



THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Agreement for the Release of Digital Data

Digital Data Available – all datasets are provided as shapefiles. Spatial information is mapped in Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection, NAD 83, for zone 19N.

Bald Eagle Essential Habitat
Natural Heritage/Biological Conservation Database (BCD) - observations of rare, threatened, or endangered species
Deer Wintering Areas
Inland Waterfowl/Wading bird Habitat
Piping Plover/Least Tern Essential Habitat
Roseate Tern Essential Habitat
Seabird Nesting Islands
Shorebird Areas
Tidal Waterfowl/Wading bird Habitat

The recipient requesting access to any of these digital databases agrees to abide by the terms and guidelines specified below.

1. **Currency.** The information contained in The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife databases changes as existing features are updated and new data are added. The information provided in this release will, therefore, become outdated. When discrepancies occur between the databases provided to the recipient and The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's current databases, the data in The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife databases will be the correct data.
2. **Comprehensiveness.** Site-specific or comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted for the entire state. The databases provided in this release cannot be relied on to provide a definitive statement of the presence or absence of important habitats or rare, endangered, or threatened species. These databases cannot be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental reviews/assessments or conservation planning.
3. **Resolution.** The scale at which the data were collected and mapped limits use and analysis of geographic data. These databases are intended for use at a scale of 1:24,000 or smaller (1:50,000 for example). Use of these databases (by zooming or enlarging) at a scale greater than 1:24,000 (1:12,000 for example) may produce unintended and potentially inaccurate results.
4. **Accuracy.** Appropriate use and interpretation of these databases depends on the source information and the intended purpose for which the data were mapped. Field observations, aerial photographs, satellite imagery, and computer modeling all were used to create The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife databases. Field observations and aerial photographs (depending on resolution and vintage) provide the most accurate data. Satellite imagery and computer modeling generally are used to map areas of potential habitat. Please read the metadata provided with each data layer carefully to understand fully the methods used to map different features and their intended use.
5. **Modifications.** The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife generally does not support any modifications to the provided databases. Modification are not allowed except as specified below:



For assistance with specific data layers, please contact one of the following:

- Rare Plants, Rare or Exemplary Natural Communities, Shoreland Zoning Buffers

Molly Docherty
Maine Natural Areas Program
(207) 287-8045, molly.docherty@maine.gov

- Undeveloped Habitat Blocks, Forest Blocks

Don Katnik
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
(207) 941-4455, donald.katnik@maine.gov

- Wetlands Characterization

Elizabeth Hertz
Maine State Planning Office
(207) 287-8935, elizabeth.hertz@maine.gov

- Rare Animals, Significant Wildlife Habitats, Essential Wildlife Habitats

Steve Walker
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
(207) 287-5254, steve.walker@maine.gov

or

Visit www.beginningwithhabitat.org and search under "Contacts" to contact your regional biologist

- USFWS Gulf of Maine Watershed Habitat Analysis

Bob Houston
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
(207) 781-8364 ext. 11, robert_houston@fws.gov



April 11, 2008

2008 Digital Data for the State of Maine

Maine Natural Areas Program Data:

<u>DATA FILE</u>	<u>EXPLANATION</u>	<u>METADATA FILE</u>
MNAP_eos.shp	MNAP Rare Plant & Exemplary Natural Community Data	mnap_eos.htm

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Data:

<u>DATA FILE</u>	<u>EXPLANATION</u>	<u>METADATA FILE</u>
dwa.shp	Deer Wintering Areas	dwa.htm
heritage.shp	IFW Rare Animal Polygons	heritage.htm
bcd_poly.shp	IFW Rare Animal Polygons	bcd.txt
forestblocks.shp	Large Areas of Interior Forest	forestblocks.htm
iwwh.shp	Inland Wading Bird / Waterfowl Habitat	iwwh.htm
eheagle.shp	Bald Eagle Nest Sites	eheagle.htm
ehrtern.shp	Roseate Tern habitat	ehrtern.htm
ehplvtrn.shp	Piping Plover and Least Tern Habitat	ehplvtrn.htm
Sni.shp	Seabird Nesting Islands	sni.htm
Shorebird.shp	Shorebird Feeding / Roosting Habitat	shorebird.htm
twwh.shp	Tidal Wading Bird / Waterfowl Habitat	twwh.htm

State Planning Office Data:

<u>DATA FILE</u>	<u>EXPLANATION</u>	<u>METADATA FILE</u>
Wetchar.shp	Wetland Characterization Data	wetchar.htm

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Data:

<u>DATA FILE</u>	<u>EXPLANATION</u>	<u>METADATA FILE</u>
Gompolys.shp	Subset of USFWS Habitat Data	gompolys.htm
Ashab3.shp	Atlantic Salmon Habitat Data	ashab3.htm

****NOTE:** Two versions of the USFWS Habitat Data are provided. The copy on the Beginning With Habitat CD contains the top 25% rated habitat areas that are ≥ 5 acres, clipped to the region described above. The second CD contains their entire USFWS Habitat dataset.

Other Beginning With Habitat Data:

<u>DATA FILE</u>	<u>EXPLANATION</u>	<u>METADATA FILE</u>
Focus_Areas.shp	Focus Areas of Ecological Significance	focus_areas.htm
Pond_buffer.shp	250' Buffers of Great Ponds	ponds_buffers.htm
River_buffer.shp	250' Buffers of Rivers	river_buffers.htm
Stream_buffer.shp	75' Buffers of Streams	stream_buffers.htm
Wetland_buffer.shp	250' Buffers of Wetlands of at least 10 Ac.	Wetland_buffers.htm
Coastal_buffer.shp	250' Buffers of Coastal Waters	Coastal_buffers.htm
Undeveloped_blocks.shp	Undeveloped Habitat Block Polygons	undeveloped_blocks.htm

