



NExUS Ongoing Projects and Activities Tue Nov 20 00:40:30 EST 2018

Name	Northeast Regional Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard
Description	<p>This project will integrate NOAA and NatureServe's Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) and the Nature Conservancy and NatureServe's Northeast Regional Habitat Classification System (NRHCS) in order to extend the latter system to estuarine and marine environments from Maine to Virginia. Several commonalities already exist between the two schemes; namely each has a multi-scale hierarchical framework, relies on structural environmental features, and seeks to convey physical-biological linkages. Making CMECS and NRHCS compatible will bring appropriate specificity to the application of the national CMECS standard to the region. Coordination will take place between state, academic, and non-profit partners and existing ocean partnerships (NROC and MARCO) to identify and cross-walk existing state marine classification systems. The scalability of this classification will be examined by conducting pilot mapping projects at three different scales relevant to planning and conservation efforts. At the smallest scale (1:5,000,000), the classification will be applied to the Nature Conservancy's 2010 Northwest Atlantic Marine Assessment. An intermediate-scale classification (1:250,000) will utilize datasets assembled for marine spatial planning efforts in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and adjacent federal waters. Finally, estuary-specific, high-resolution information for Boston Harbor (1:5,000 scale) will be classified. These pilots will allow assessment of the ability of CMECS to convey consistent ecological data across relevant scales. Workshops and phone meetings will happen in the first year followed by the pilot efforts in the second year.</p>
Category	- Research
Sector	- Natural Ecosystems
Focus Area	- Conservation/ Restoration of Sensitive Species and Habitats
Region	- Regional Or State -- New England -- Mid-Atlantic
Status	- Ongoing
Timelines	End Date December 31, 2013
Lead Agencies	The Nature Conservancy
Contacts	Mark Anderson, Director of Science, The Nature Conservancy