



Name	Evaluating the Vulnerabilities of Ecological Resources to Climate Change in the Northeast
Description	<p>In a project extending from Maine to the Virginias, the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA), Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (Manomet), and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) are collaborating with other major northeastern stakeholders, including federal agencies and nonprofit organizations, to protect fish and wildlife and their habitats from climate change. Specifically, Manomet, NWF, and NEAFWA have embarked on a three-year effort to evaluate the vulnerabilities of the northeast's key habitats and species, and to help increase the capabilities of state fish and wildlife agencies to respond to these challenges. This regional effort is the first of its kind in the country and is an essential step toward the implementation of effective "climate-smart" conservation of ecosystems.</p> <p>Climate change is already impacting ecological resources in North America, including fish and wildlife and their habitats. These effects will become more serious and widespread as the climate continues to change, and will pose major conservation and management challenges. The overarching goal of the project is to provide vulnerability and adaptation information that will help the northeastern states to plan their conservation of fish and wildlife under a changing climate. The results will be an essential step forward in effective regional climate change conservation planning. This project has five specific objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To quantify the vulnerabilities to climate change of fish and wildlife and their habitats across the region and thereby identify those habitats and species that are likely to be more or less vulnerable, and how these vulnerabilities vary spatially.</li> <li>2. To project how these habitats and species will change their status and distributions under climate change.</li> <li>3. To identify potential adaptation options (including the mitigation of non-climate stressors) that can be used to safeguard vulnerable habitats and species.</li> <li>4. To identify monitoring strategies that will help track the onset of climate change and the success, or otherwise, of adaptation actions.</li> <li>5. To work with states to increase their institutional knowledge and capabilities to respond to climate change through educational and planning workshops and other events.</li> </ol>
Category	- Climate-change Specific Projects
Sector	- Natural Ecosystems

Focus Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coasts and Climate Resilience (including sea-level rise)</li> <li>- Changes in Extremes of Weather and Climate</li> <li>- Conservation/ Restoration of Sensitive Species and Habitats</li> </ul>
Region	- Regional Or State -- New England -- Mid-Atlantic
Status	- Ongoing
Timelines	Started 2010/ Will be completed December 2012
Lead Agencies	Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences; National Wildlife Federation, Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
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