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Casco Bay Watershed Fish Barrier Priorities Atlas: Harpswell

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Casco Bay Watershed

Fish Barrier Priorities Atlas

March 2012

Background

This atlas was created to help guide restoration of streams affected by road-stream crossings and dams acting as barriers to fish passage in the Casco Bay watershed as part of a project coordinated by the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program (USFWS-GOMCP). The 42 individual town maps of the atlas contain crossings, dams and a small number of natural barriers identified during field surveys¹ of perennial streams in 2009 and 2010, and mapped using a geographic information system (GIS). Sites have been classified by the degree of restriction they represent for fish passage, and additional related data such as high priority stream habitat and flood hazards are shown in the maps to help identify priority sites. Data have been compiled into a database for use in analysis and mapping.

Although habitat needs for fish are best understood at the scale of whole streams, which bear little relationship to town boundaries, this atlas was created primarily for use by municipal public works employees and other staff and representatives focusing on local road systems. Therefore, each map page represents a town or city, and is shown at a scale suitable to include the entire community on one page. An index map shows the location of each town within the watershed, and a legend page provides explanation of symbols used on individual maps. Barriers from outside the Casco Bay watershed are shown where data are available, but masked to focus on the towns and portion of towns which are within the watershed.

Fish Barriers

Road-stream crossings are shown with SiteID numbers to help identify them in the barrier database. Dams, in most cases, have labels both of SiteID and the dam's common name, if one is known. *Severe* barriers are defined as those road/stream crossings where fundamental physical barriers exist at either the inlet or outlet of the crossing, including inlets or outlets "perched" above the stream channel, and inlets blocked at least 50%, usually by debris. *Potential* barriers cover a wide spectrum of road-stream crossing situations where fish passage problems are likely to exist at some flows for some species or age groups of fish, and passage of other aquatic organisms such as amphibians and macroinvertebrates is likely also limited. Sites that were inaccessible to survey crews, and therefore not surveyed, are shown as unsurveyed, but are included in our analysis as *Potential* barriers. Dams are classified by whether or not they have effective facilities in place to provide upstream fish passage. Natural barriers, including waterfalls, debris jams (including woody debris or rock and fine sediments), and beaver dams were assessed when in close proximity to surveyed crossings and dams, and are mapped as well.

Priority Streams

USFWS-GOMCP and CBEP staff consulted with state fisheries biologists to identify streams with important fish habitat, primarily for brook trout or Atlantic salmon, or both. These *priority streams* are highlighted on the maps. The scope of the road/stream crossing barrier assessment was limited to perennial streams, those with continuous flow year round. Although intermittent streams were not surveyed, fish using priority streams also rely on connectivity with intermittent tributaries at various times of year. There are likely to be additional barriers on important intermittent streams that have not been assessed.

Flood Hazards

The maps present data from Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA) and CBEP to show where flood hazards are likely to overlap with fish barriers. CCEMA, in cooperation with towns, has identified many road crossings as flood hazards based on past flood events. CCEMA sites are marked by purple circles, and do not always coincide with barrier survey sites because they may be located on intermittent streams or larger rivers crossed by bridges, which are generally passable for fish but may still entail flood hazards.

¹ Field surveys were conducted based on protocols from the *Maine Road-Stream Crossing Survey Manual* (http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpm/water/docs/stream_crossing_2008/MaineRoad-StreamCrossingSurveyManual2008.pdf).

Where these sites do coincide with barriers, the combination of flood hazard with fish passage problems should place them high on any town's priority list for replacement.

A second set of flood hazard sites was derived from the barrier survey data by CBEP Director Curtis Bohlen. In CBEP's analysis, the capacity of each crossing was compared to the expected flows for that specific crossing during a 25-year flood event. Where sufficient crossing data exists, flows were calculated based on the relationship between drainage area above the crossing, and the proportion of the drainage area occupied by National Wetland Inventory-defined wetlands. CBEP flood hazard sites are shown as red circles, and represent all crossing sites where the capacity of the crossing was less than 50% of the expected 25-year flood value. This is meant as a general indication of flood risk, but may be incorrect in some locations based on site-specific factors. As with CCEMA sites above, where these sites coincide with barrier sites, the combination of flood hazard with fish passage problems should place them high on any town's priority list for review and possible replacement.

Other Data

Land use and wetland data are mapped to provide helpful landscape information, with upland forested areas distinguished from wetland, open, or developed areas. Public and private roads and railroads are included, as are all streams in the watershed, both perennial and intermittent. Relief shading is provided to help make reading the topography of the maps somewhat more intuitive. Tidal crossings, due to the increased complexity involved with crossing designs for two-way flow and maintenance of coastal wetlands, are denoted separately on the maps. Any town or other entity with plans to replace culverts at tidal crossings is invited to contact CBEP to explore partnership and grant funding opportunities. Town-based data summary tables for all barrier sites classified as *Severe* or *Potential* on high priority streams are provided following the maps. Each town has a two-page summary of key attributes from the database to provide information on location, dimensions and site conditions.

Data Sources

The data used to create this atlas came from a variety of sources. CBEP and USFWS-GOMC funded field surveys, with significant volunteer assistance from Trout Unlimited. Many resources were supplied by USFWS-GOMCP, including software, hardware, and data. Most barrier data was developed by USFWS-GOMCP from field survey data, though some was provided by the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, which conducted surveys in the easternmost portion of the watershed. Flood hazard data is from either CCEMA, or from Curtis Bohlen's CBEP flood hazard analysis. Priority streams data was developed by USFWS-GOMCP, MDIFW, and the Maine Department of Marine Resources based on survey data of fish occurrences and habitat surveys. Basemap data, including relief shading, roads, town boundaries and most watershed polygons were supplied by the Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems. The roads data mapped is primarily from the Maine Department of Transportation dataset. Dam data is modified from original data from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Hydrography data came from high resolution National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).

Disclaimer

Please be aware that the data contained in the maps and tables of this atlas may contain errors, and represents the best information available at the time of publication. Note that crossing surveys were conducted in 2009 and 2010, and some sites surveyed may have undergone important changes based on flood events, maintenance or even entire replacement of a crossing. Likewise, flood hazard sites identified by CCEMA may have been modified based on previously planned work to lessen flooding problems.

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Casco Bay Barriers by Town

Index Map



Casco Bay Barriers by Town

Legend

Crossing Barrier Type with SiteID

- 8235 ▲ Severe
- 8049 ▲ Potential
- 8731 ▲ Passable
- 9112 ▼ Unknown

Dams

- No Upstream Fish Passage
- Planned Upstream Fish Passage
- Upstream Fish Passage

- ◆ Bridge (Passable)
- Debris/Beaver Dam (Impassable)
- ⚡ Waterfall (Impassable)
- MDOT Crossing
- Tidal Site
- Flood Hazard - Cumberland County EMA
- Flood Hazard - CBEP Analysis
- ~ Priority Stream

Roads

- Private
- Public
- Highway
- Interstate

- Railroad
- Town Boundary
- Wetland
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Rivers, Ponds & Coastal Waters
- Watershed Boundary
- Forested Lands
- Open or Developed Lands

These maps are created primarily with 1:24,000 scale basemap data, with landcover data added to provide general distinctions between open and forested lands. Areas outside of the Casco Bay watershed are masked to obscure them.

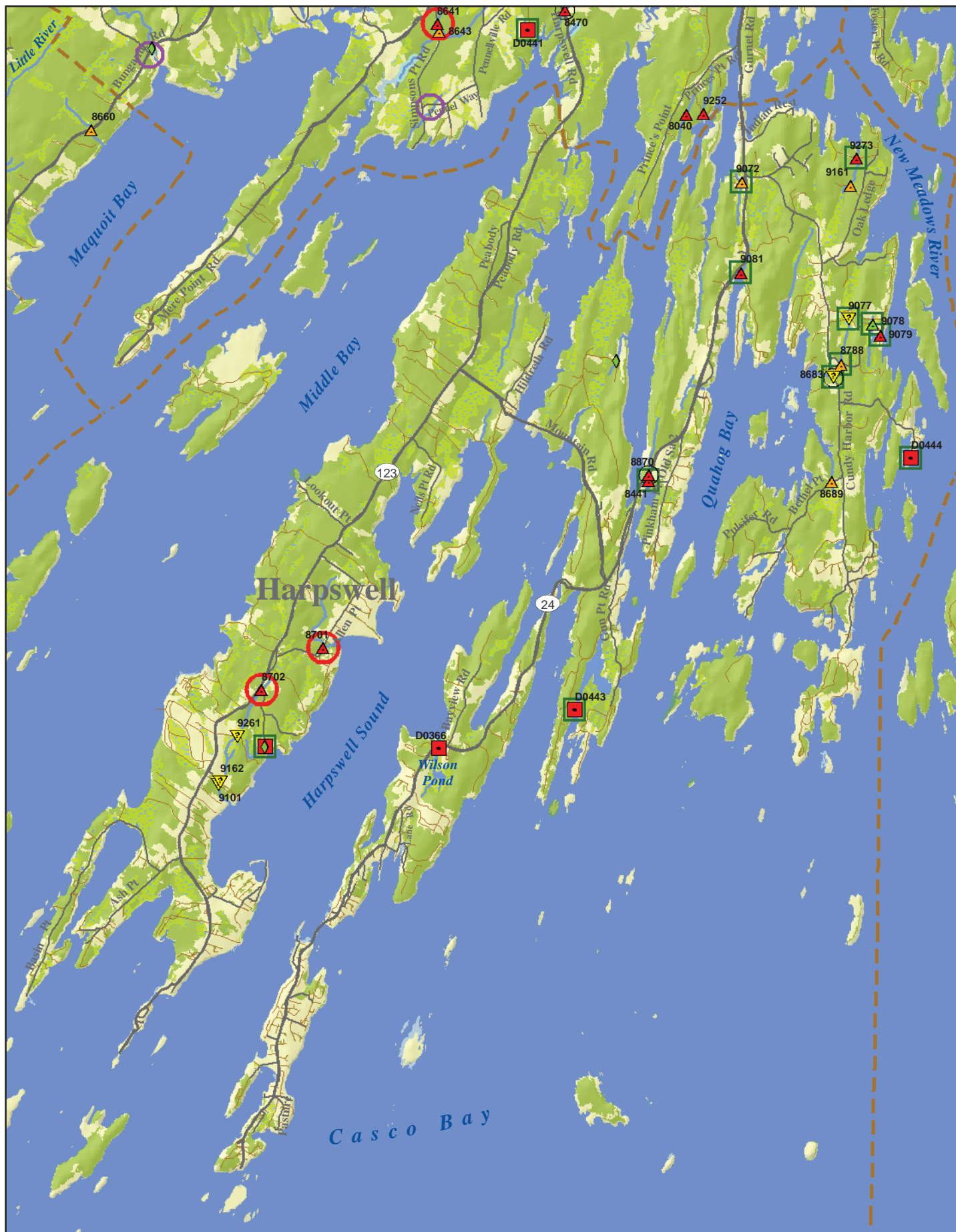


Scale Varies by Town
See scale bar at bottom of each map



Casco Bay Barriers by Town

Harpswell



Severe and High Priority Potential Barriers by Town

Site ID	Town	Habitat Priority	Basic Structure Type	Barrier Class	Survey Date	Road Name	Road Type & Class	Stream	UTM East	UTM North	Stream Type	Number Of Culverts	Material	Condition
8701	Harpswell		Culvert	Severe	9/1/2009	Allen Pt Rd	Town / Paved	Unknown	420482	4848615	Perennial	1	Plastic	
8870	Harpswell		Culvert	Severe	8/25/2009	Harpswell Island Rd	State / Paved	Unnamed	425223	4851135	Perennial	1	Concrete	
9273	Harpswell		Culvert	Severe	9/1/2009	Sebacodegan Rd	Private / Unpaved	Unnamed	428244	4855748	Tidal	1	Plastic	
8702	Harpswell		Multiple Culverts	Severe	9/1/2009	Shore Acre Rd	Town / Paved	Unnamed	419585	4848002	Perennial	2	Plastic	
8441	Harpswell		Culvert	Severe	8/25/2009	Stevens Corner	Town / Paved	Unnamed	425219	4851044	Tidal	1	Metal	
9081	Harpswell		Culvert	Severe	8/25/2009	Tandreau Pt	Private / Unpaved	Unnamed	426563	4854089	Tidal	1	Metal	
9079	Harpswell		Culvert	Severe	8/2/2010	Wallace Shore Rd.	Private / Paved	Unknown	428596	4853176	Tidal	1	Concrete	
D0443	Harpswell		Dam	Severe			NA	Unknown	424145	4847707	Tidal			
D0365	Harpswell		Dam	Severe	9/1/2009		NA	unnamed	419636	4847168	Perennial		Stone	
D0366	Harpswell		Dam	Severe	9/1/2009		NA	Wilson pond	422169	4847143	Perennial		Concrete	

Severe and High Priority Potential Barriers by Town

Site ID	Specific Structure Type	Inlet Condition	Inlet Blocked	Primary Inlet Span FT	Crossing Structure Length FT	Outlet Condition	Outlet Drop FT	Crossing Substrate	Fill Height FT	Estimated Stream Width FT	Upstream Miles to Next Barriers	Up-Stream Barriers	Total Upstream Miles	Down-stream Barriers	Dam Name	Hydraulic Height FT
8701	Round Culvert	At Grade	No	3.0	62.3	Perched	0.0	None		8.3	0.821	0	0.821	0		
8870	Round Culvert	At Grade	No	2.5	78.7	Perched/Cascade	1.7	None		2.2	0.519	0	0.519	1		
9273	Round Culvert	At Grade	No	2.6	49.9	Perched	0.4	None		21.7	0.372	0	0.372	0		
8702	Round Culvert	At Grade	No	1.0	30.5	Perched	1.3	None		3.8	0.125	0	0.125	0		
8441	Round Culvert	At Grade	No	2.5	63.6	Perched/Cascade	1.1	None		2.4	0.059	1	0.578	0		
9081	Round Culvert	At Grade	No	2.4	26.2	Perched/Cascade	0.3	None		16.6	0.183	0	0.183	0		
9079	Box Culvert	Inlet Drop	No	3.4	16.9	Perched	0.9	Comparable		7.5	0.548	0	0.548	0		
D0443											0.777	0	0.777	0	Unknown	
D0365										5.3	0.363	0	0.363	0	Unnamed	6.2
D0366										3.6	0.497	0	0.497	0	Unnamed	8.2