









Gulf of Maine Council on



the Marine Environment

Gulf of Maine

Marine Habitat Primer

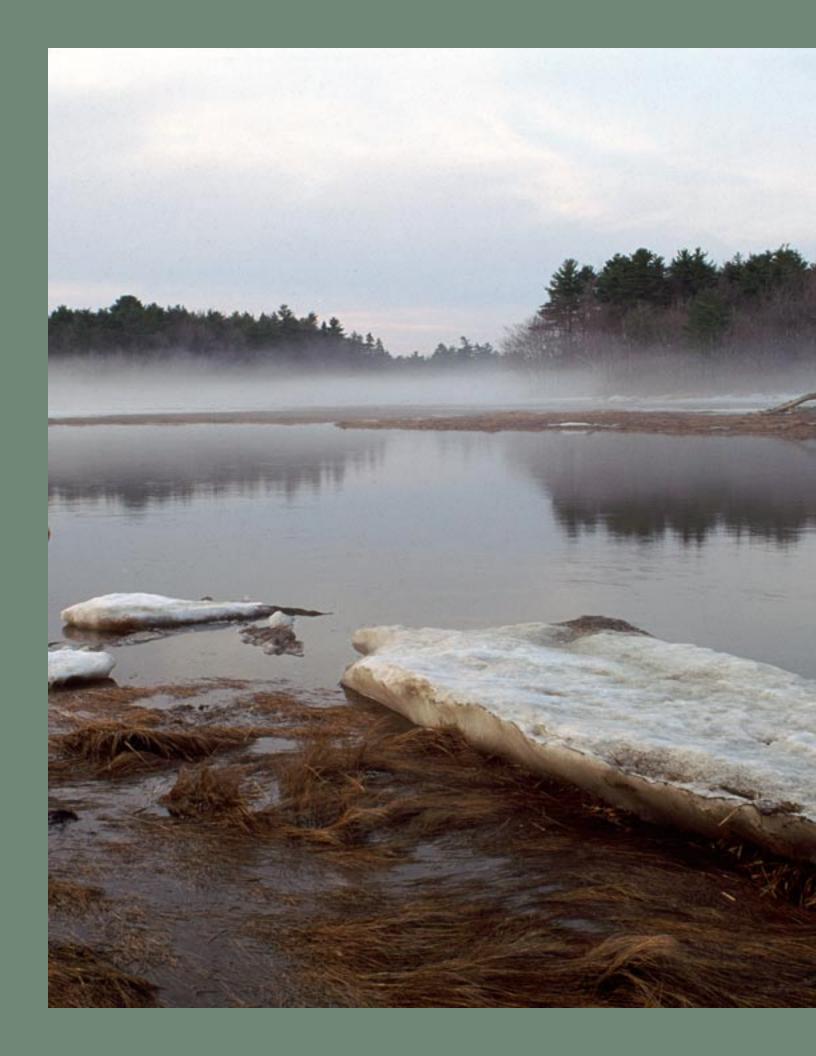


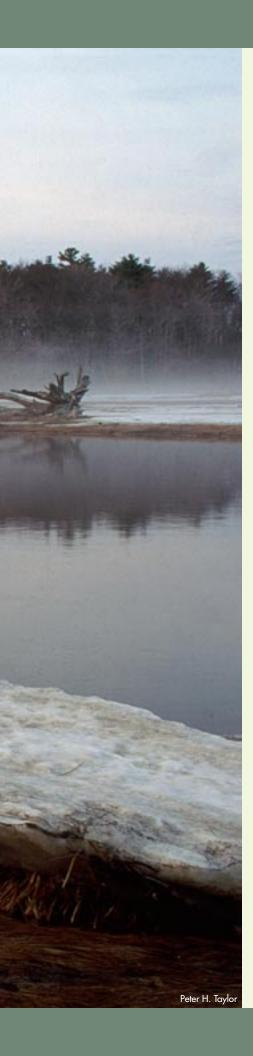
GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
HABITAT CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Gulf of Maine Council Mission

"To maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine and to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations."







Preface

he Gulf of Maine contains diverse habitats that are affected by many human activities. The *Gulf of Maine Marine Habitat Primer* is intended for everyone interested in learning more about the region's coastal and offshore habitats, especially resource managers and other coastal decision-makers in government and non-government organizations. A foundation of information regarding habitat types and their ecological relationships is essential for advancing ecosystem-based management and conservation.

The *Gulf of Maine Marine Habitat Primer* provides an overview of habitat characteristics, ecological functions, economic and recreational values, and management considerations. The *Primer*:

- enhances understanding of marine habitats in the Gulf of Maine;
- provides background needed to make more informed decisions on human uses, management, and conservation; and
- provides an initial step toward habitat conservation strategies for the Gulf of Maine developed in partnership with organizations around the Gulf.

The Habitat Conservation Subcommittee of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is working with partners in the region to develop and advance marine habitat conservation strategies. This primer is the first part of a process to determine: 1) habitat types and their ecological relationships, 2) activities impacting marine habitats, 3) the state of the science in understanding these impacts, and 4) management options for addressing the impacts. The project will culminate in Gulf of Maine marine habitat conservation strategies with findings and recommendations regarding science, policy, and management approaches.

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Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Science Translation Project

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To download a pdf copy of the *Marine Habitat Primer*, request printed copies, or become involved in development of Gulfwide habitat conservation strategies, go to www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatprimer.



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