

# Gulf of Maine Marine Habitat Primer



Gulf of Maine Council on



the Marine Environment





# 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."*



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Marine Environment





# Preface

The 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.



# Acknowledgments

The Gulf of Maine Council thanks the following organizations for financial support to print the *Gulf of Maine Marine Habitat Primer*.



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada



Massachusetts Office of  
Coastal Zone Management



Woods Hole Oceanographic  
Institution Sea Grant



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Council on the  
Marine Environment

The Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC) thanks the many people who were involved in the preparation of this report. The author, Megan Tyrrell, wrote this document while working on a NOAA fellowship at the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). Her knowledge of marine environments and effort to make the document factual and well-written as well as CZM's support of the project were invaluable contributions. GOMC also thanks members of its Habitat Conservation Subcommittee who volunteered to provide comments on the document. Subcommittee co-chairs Katie Lund and Marianne Janowicz served as project managers. In addition, a Scientific Advisory Panel reviewed portions or all of this report, provided figures and photographs, and engaged in helpful discussions. Finally, thanks to Peter Taylor and Ethan Nedeau, GOMC Science Translators, for their tireless work to edit, design, and provide layout for the Primer.

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Science Translation Project  
Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment  
[www.gulfofmaine.org/science\\_translation](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/science_translation)

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#### Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Science Translation Project

The Science Translation Project provides scientific information to state, provincial, and federal decision-makers to advance ecosystem-based management in the Gulf of Maine and its watershed. The project is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET), Maine State Planning Office, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, New Hampshire Coastal Program, Maine Sea Grant, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant, and Environment Canada.

#### To cite this document:

Tyrrell, M.C. 2005. *Gulf of Maine Marine Habitat Primer*. Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org). vi+54 pages.

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](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatprimer).



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paper, with soy inks

Cover photos: Fog and water background, sand ripples: Ethan Nedeau. Salt marsh pool, rocky shore: Peter H. Taylor. *Bollenia* tunicates and fish: Mike Strong and Maria-Ines Buzeta.



# Contents

Introduction 1

Physical Habitats 9

Rocky Habitats 10  
Sandy Habitats 16  
Muddy Habitats 19  
Water Column 23

Biogenic Habitats 27

Salt Marshes 28  
Seagrass Beds 32  
Kelp Beds 35  
Shellfish Beds 37  
Cold-water Corals 39

Habitats Formed by Human  
Activity 43

Invasive-Plant Habitats 44  
Fouling Communities 49

Conclusion 50

Bibliography 52



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