

## A History of Impacts

Patterns of land and water use in the Gulf of Maine region over hundreds of years have changed the structure and functioning of watersheds and nearshore systems. Coastal wetland decline and impaired tidal flow is commonplace, the spread of invasive species is increasing, and dams and road systems in the region block fish and wildlife access to important habitats. Together, these changes imperil jobs linked to the natural resource based economy (like fisheries and tourism), impair land values, cause fish and wildlife declines and erode our quality of life.

## What Restoration Achieves

Habitat restoration returns natural systems to ecologically diverse and economically supportive conditions. Restoration restores fish and wildlife populations, coastal wetlands that protect communities from sea level rise and increasingly intense storms, and re-establishes conditions that support fisheries and tourism. Restoration uses proven, commonsense approaches that return successful results like any other well-planned construction project.

## Benefits to People and the Environment

Whether it's the restoration of tidal flow to coastal wetlands, removal of deteriorating dams, or construction of fishways, restoration addresses more than ecological concerns. Projects remove public safety hazards, lessen road maintenance costs, enhance commercial and recreational fishing opportunities, and also encourage more restoration at the local scale. Most restoration projects rely on engineering, construction labor, equipment and materials sourced from the local community, home state or province, so most restoration dollars stay local<sup>1</sup>. Restoration's job creation impacts often exceed other industrial sectors.

*The mission of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.*

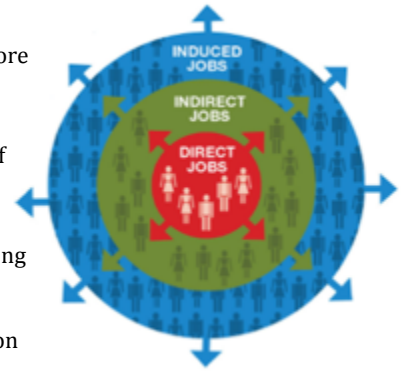


Restoration improves habitats (left), which are critical to tourism and fishing industries. Restoration projects can't be outsourced, so they help local economies by employing the local workforce (right). Three different types of jobs are created or sustained by restoration projects:

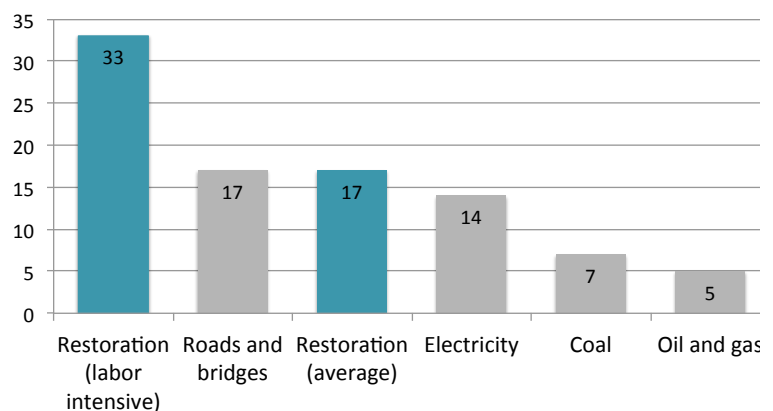
**DIRECT JOBS:** jobs that restore impaired wetlands, shellfish beds, and fish passage.

**INDIRECT JOBS:** suppliers of construction materials and nursery plants.

**INDUCED JOBS:** jobs providing local goods and services, like clothing, food, and fuel for people working on restoration projects.



Jobs created per \$1 million invested: Habitat restoration ranks highly among traditional sectors<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Edwards, P.E.T., A.E Sutton-Grier and G.E Coyle. 2012. Investing in Nature: Restoring Coastal Habitat, Blue Infrastructure, and Green Job Creation. Marine Policy.