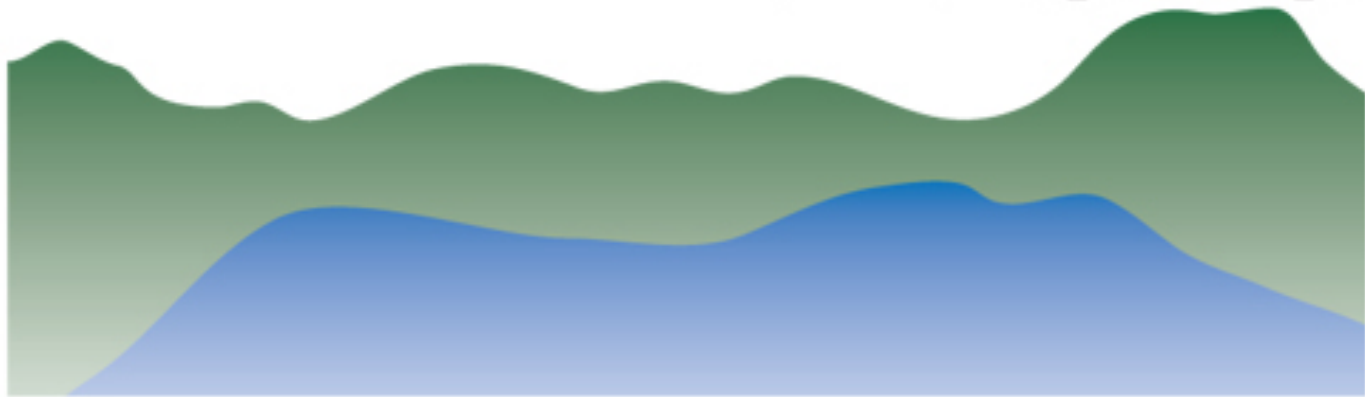


# North Atlantic LCC Logo

Handout 7

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

**North  
Atlantic**  **LCC**



North Atlantic Landscape  
Conservation Cooperative

**North  
Atlantic**



**LCCC**





**North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative**

# North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative



## Regional overview

The north Atlantic coast is one of the most populous and industrialized coastal areas in the world. Home to 17 percent of the nation's population, its natural habitats have long been subject to extreme social and economic use pressures. The Northeast's history of agriculture, forestry, industrialization, resource extraction and urbanization has placed severe demands on the environment. The region is still rich in living resources, although many are considerably lessened from their former levels of abundance and their habitats reduced in extent, making the protection of remaining habitats and populations critical to maintaining the region's biodiversity. Now climate change adds a new threat to already imperiled habitats and species, with potentially vast ecological and economic consequences. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and partners are being called upon to address these conflicts, and the Service is working to formalize the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) as a response to this challenge. The North Atlantic LCC covers land in 12 of the 13 Northeast states and the District of Columbia.

## Purpose and partners

The North Atlantic LCC is a conservation science-management partnership, consisting of federal agencies, states, tribes, universities and private organizations, focused on collaboratively developing science-based recommendations and decision-support tools to implement on-the-ground conservation. The goal is having all partners working together to sustain landscapes capable of maintaining abundant, diverse and healthy populations of fish, wildlife and plants. The work of the North Atlantic LCC will be integrated with a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) regional Climate Science Center to conduct studies and develop landscape-scale conservation plans. The North Atlantic LCC will also address impacts to ecosystems beyond those of climate change, such as potential extirpation of wildlife populations from disease or habitat loss.



*Sanderlings*

Bill Boehman/USFWS

Active conservation partnerships already exist around major watersheds, such as Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, Connecticut River/Long Island Sound, New York Bight, and Gulf of Maine. The bird conservation regions of New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast and Atlantic Northern Forest occur within this LCC area, as do multiple fish habitat partnerships. These existing efforts provide strong building blocks on which to establish a fully functioning and highly effective LCC. Links with Canadian partners in the LCC have also been established, which is crucial, given the recognized importance of securing avenues for northward migration of habitats and wildlife distributions under climate change scenarios.

Key among the critical existing partnerships already functioning within the landscape of the North Atlantic LCC is the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, a partnership of federal, regional and state agencies and organizations focused on the conservation of habitat for native bird species in the Atlantic Flyway region of the United States from Maine south to Puerto Rico, which includes all of

the states in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic and South Florida LCCs. The joint venture has agreed to collaborate in broader strategic habitat conservation approaches for all wildlife and fish species consistent with its vision and mission and will likely play a role in tying together conservation science and delivery in all three Atlantic Coast LCCs.

## Habitats and species

The North Atlantic LCC encompasses diverse coastal and inland ecosystems and habitat types, including large bays and estuary systems, beaches, coastal islands, salt marshes, major river systems (such as the Connecticut, Hudson, and Delaware rivers), pine barrens, forested wetlands, extensive northern hardwood and conifer forests, and high elevation spruce-fir forests. These diverse ecosystems and habitat types support an equally diverse set of fish and wildlife resources, including federally listed and candidate species such as Atlantic salmon, piping plover, red knot, Canada lynx, New England cottontail, Dwarf wedgemussel and Karner blue butterfly, as well as many other priority species of migratory birds, anadromous fish and species of greatest conservation