

# Spring 2016 Steering Committee Meeting **Communications Update**

North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)

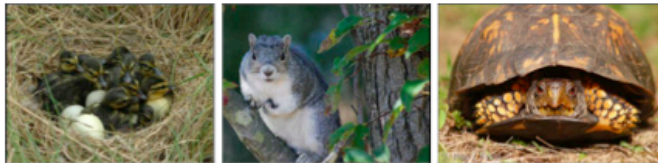


# Tools to support communication:

- **Fact Sheets**
  - **Products Page**
  - **Case Studies**
  - **Science Seminars**
  - **Newsletter**
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## The North Atlantic LCC in Maryland

The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is an applied science and management partnership that builds upon a long history of collaborative conservation in the North Atlantic region. It is a forum to unite agencies and stakeholders around common goals for sustaining natural and cultural resources, and to develop tools and strategies to achieve those goals in the face of threats and uncertainty.



Foundational information, assessments, and tools supported by the North Atlantic LCC offer resources for partners in Maryland to protect important species, habitats, and landscapes now and in the future. These products were designed to address specific needs expressed by partners and partnerships in Maryland, including:

- Regionally consistent habitat maps
- Prioritization tools for conservation of Eastern brook trout, piping plover, and other key species
- Conservation strategies to address sea-level rise and other climate change impacts
- Consistent approaches for assessing and prioritizing aquatic connectivity

### Examples of North Atlantic LCC Science Products

#### AQUATIC CONSERVATION RESOURCES

##### Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Assessment and Fish Habitat Decision Support Tool

A model and accompanying assessment for the Chesapeake Bay watershed that predicts brook trout occupancy, evaluates habitat quality, quantifies how human use and climate change are likely to impact both, and identifies conservation priorities at multiple scales.

##### Products (available now)

- Visualization tool to measure natural and human factors that influence brook trout occurrence at multiple scales
- User-defined ranking criteria for identifying priority areas
- Scenario analysis modeling in the context of future climate regimes
- Online access to Atlantic Coast Diadromous Fish Prioritization

##### Contacts

- Toddy Petty, West Virginia University: [Toddy.Petty@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Toddy.Petty@mail.wvu.edu)
- Scott Schwenk, North Atlantic LCC: [william\\_schwenk@fws.gov](mailto:william_schwenk@fws.gov)

## Products

Our searchable database provides access to a range of different products designed to help partners across the North Atlantic region address conservation challenges at multiple scales based on the best available science.

### Search Products

Search by typing in keywords or by selecting terms below.

### Focused Product Search

Select all that apply

#### PRODUCT TYPE

##### Foundation Information

- Maps, Spatial Datasets, and Databases

##### Assessments and Research Results

- Model-Based Assessments
- Publications and Journal Articles
- Reports

##### Decision Support Tools

- Conservation designs, blueprints, and plans
- Interactive tools and models

## Search Results

Sort by:  Alphabetical  Most recent  Oldest first



### Brook Trout in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: On-line Decision Support Tool to Assess Current and Future Habitat

To effectively manage vital freshwater resources across large geographic areas, resource managers need the capacity to assess the status of aquatic species, their habitats, and the threats they face. This on-line decision support tool provides that capability for Eastern brook trout across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The tool

allows users to characterize current and potential future aquatic conditions, target and prescribe restoration and conservation actions, set strategic priorities, evaluate management efforts, and support science-based sustainable management plans on behalf of brook trout and associated species. The tool is accompanied by a user-friendly summary report and a technical report providing details on how the tool was created.



### Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standards (CMECS) pilot studies

The Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) provides a comprehensive national framework for organizing information about coasts, oceans, and their living systems. But when integrating these data across different scales, is anything lost in translation? This report uses three pilot projects to assess how well the framework functions for classifying estuarine and marine environments at different scales.



### Connect the Connecticut Landscape Conservation Design

## CONSERVATION IN ACTION

## Synthesis of Tidal Inlet and Sandy Beach Habitat Inventories

An inventory of the location, status, and condition of beach habitats including potential piping plover breeding grounds before Hurricane Sandy, immediately after Hurricane Sandy, and three years after post-storm recovery efforts, based on imagery from Google Earth, Google Maps, state agencies, municipalities, and private organizations. Products include:

- Google Earth files and metadata of Pre-Sandy Tidal Inlets, Beach Fill and Beach Armoring (Maine to Va.); Excel spreadsheet of Pre-Sandy Beach Development, Armoring, and Fill by Community
- Report providing Inventory of Habitat Modifications to Sandy Beaches, Maine to Va.
- Report providing Inventory of Habitat Modifications to Tidal Inlets, Maine to Va.
- Inventory of Habitat Modifications to Sandy Beaches for Coastal Migration and Wintering Range in Continental U.S.

### DEVELOPED BY:

Tracy Monegan Rice, Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

### WHO IS USING IT?

Peter Slovinsky, Marine Geologist, Maine Geological Survey (MGS) Member of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Coastal Hazards Resilience Subcommittee and Living Shorelines Group

### HOW IS IT BEING APPLIED?

Slovinsky used the inventory of shoreline structures to help fill in gaps in Maine's existing database of shoreline armoring on larger sandy

beach habitats in the state. This helped in the completion of an assessment of shoreline types for the Maine Coastal Program's 5 year report to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Zone Management Program.

"For the assessment, we needed to be able to distill what extent of the coastline is sandy, highly erodible, stabilized, etc., in miles," explained Slovinsky. "Some of those numbers were built into Tracy's report and accompanying GIS layers, and that helped us supplement our datasets."

Applying the products of this effort brought things full circle for Slovinsky, who originally shared data compiled by Maine Geological Survey with Rice in 2015. "So often datasets like these are created, and you never hear about them, but Tracy made the effort to find out what data already existed in states, and importantly, to follow up with outreach when the project was complete," said Slovinsky. "The report helped us update our own database because it built on what we had, but added the sandy beaches in other parts of the state, and captured larger shoreline protection structures for the coastline."



A bird's-eye view shows coastal armoring structures in Wells, Maine. Credit: Google Earth

### WHAT CONSERVATION NEED DOES IT ADDRESS?

In order to help both human and natural communities adapt to sea level rise, coastal decision makers need to understand what helps, and what makes matter worse, in terms of shoreline protection and stabilization.

"We want to get a handle on the cumulative impact of these structures," said Slovinsky. Moving forward, it will be valuable for his agency to know which sections of Maine's shoreline are currently armored as the state considers living shoreline approaches that can increase the resiliency of coastal systems in the face of future storms.

### LEARN MORE:

- **Products from Beach and Tidal Habitat Inventories:**  
<http://northeastatlanticcc.org/groups/coastal-resiliency/projects/beach-and-tidal-inlet-habitat-inventories/beach-and-tidal-inlet-habitat-inventories>
- **Maine Geological Survey:**  
<http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mgs/>
- **NROC's Living Shorelines Group:**  
<http://northeastoceanocouncil.org/committees/coastal-hazards-resilience/living-shorelines-group/>



## North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

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### Learn about a new database developed to advance vernal pool conservation in the North Atlantic region

Join a North Atlantic LCC webinar on **Thursday, March 17th from 12:00 to 1:00 pm (Eastern)** to learn about the new [Vernal Pool Data Cooperative](#), a spatial database of field-verified and remotely-sensed (potential) vernal pool locations in eight states and two Canadian provinces in the North Atlantic region.

Compiling disparate information into a single, region-wide GIS database, the Vernal Pool Data Cooperative will help advance conservation of vernal pools by improving the collective understanding about the distribution of this habitat. The database is accessible on the North Atlantic LCC's [Conservation Planning Atlas](#), separated into two datasets according to the restriction category assigned by the original data owner: [Level 1](#) and [Level 2](#)

This presentation will introduce the Vernal Pool Data Cooperative as a framework for geospatial vernal pool data, demonstrate the visualization capabilities on the Conservation Planning Atlas, discuss how it will help advance vernal pool conservation on a landscape scale, and highlight data gaps where additional vernal pool mapping is needed.

The presentation will be co-led by [Vermont Center for Ecostudies](#) co-founder Steve Faccio, and Sean MacFaden, a research analyst at the University of Vermont's [Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources](#).

#### LINK TO VIEW THE LIVE STREAM PRESENTATION:

<http://original.livestream.com/R5Broadcasts>

SCIENCE SEMINARS

North Atlantic  Landscape Conservation Cooperative

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**Responding to Climate Change:** In recognition of the significance of the [United Nations Conference on Climate Change](#) (COP 21) in Paris, the North Atlantic LCC Fall 2015 Newsletter focuses on our work to support a coordinated response to climate change in the North Atlantic region.

As the thousands of leaders, politicians, scientists, and citizens who gathered in Paris demonstrate, a diverse, global community has mobilized to address climate change, both out of conviction and necessity. A complex problem that will have cascading impacts for humans and the environment, climate change demands a multifaceted response. One of the key facets identified in the Paris Agreement reached on December 12th is the importance of working together "to identify concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions."

The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative provides common ground for partners in 13 states and 4 Canadian provinces to face this problem together, and to contribute their individual strengths to a regional response.

[Read more about the role of the North Atlantic LCC in responding to climate change](#)

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## WHAT'S NEWS

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[National Academy of Sciences releases review of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives](#)

The National Academy of Sciences released its review of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, concluding that a landscape approach is needed to meet the nation's conservation challenges, and that LCCs provide a framework for addressing that need. [Read more](#)

NEWSLETTER

## News from the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)

Macdonald, Bridget <bridget\_macdonald@fws.gov>  
To: Undisclosed recipients <bridget\_macdonald@fws.gov>  
Bcc: bridget\_macdonald@fws.gov

Tue, Mar 29,

# NEWSLETTER



### News from the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)

#### Science in the stream

A new tool removes some of the guesswork from aquatic restoration by allowing users to establish and rank conservation priorities, predict how species will fare under various management scenarios, and evaluate long-term benefits of restoration projects in the context of climate change. The tool applies to Eastern brook trout in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, river herring and other anadromous fish in Atlantic coastal rivers, and winter flounder in Long Island Sound and Narragansett Bay.

[Learn more](#)

#### Pooling vernal pool data for conservation

A new online database containing nearly 60,000 vernal pool locations in eight states and two Canadian provinces is now available to support conservation of vernal pools, temporary wetlands that are hard to protect because they are hard to find.

[Learn more](#)

#### What lies beneath lakes and ponds

A standard mapping classification for lakes and ponds is now available to help ensure more effective conservation of aquatic ecosystems in the region. The Lakes and Ponds Classification System synthesizes regional and national lake survey information from states and the EPA's National Lake Assessment and New England Lake and Pond Survey to provide a comprehensive database of sampled bodies of water in the region.

[Learn more](#)

#### Putting regional science to work for refuge planning

During a National Wildlife Refuge biological workshop at the National Conservation Training Center, staff from the North Atlantic LCC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service introduced refuge biologists to scientific tools that offer regional perspective on habitat management and planning.

[Learn more](#)

#### Coastal resilience resource list

By providing a comprehensive inventory of the work being undertaken by LCCs and partner organizations to address coastal resilience issues in the Atlantic, Gulf Coast, and Caribbean regions, this new resource offers a one-stop shopping list to support growing collaboration in coastal resilience. The list includes projects, reports, guidebooks, programs, online support tools, and papers, searchable by type, organization, or date.

[Learn more](#)

#### Other News