



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge

*Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan
April 2005*



Cover Photos: Cross Island, looking toward Inner and Outer Double Head Shot Islands, *USFWS*



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million acre National Wildlife Refuge system comprised of more than 545 national wildlife refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. It also operates 65 national fish hatcheries and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid Program which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long term guidance for management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes and identify the Service's best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge

(formerly Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge Complex)

Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan

April 2005

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Refuge Headquarters
P.O. Box 279, Water Street
Milbridge, ME 04658-0279



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(Formerly the Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge Complex)

*Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan
April 2005*

Submitted by:

Charles W Blair
Charles W. Blair
Refuge Manager
Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge

8-17-2005
Date

Concurrence by:

Janet M Kennedy
Janet M. Kennedy
Acting Refuge Supervisor, North
National Wildlife Refuge System

8-17-2005
Date

Anthony D. Léger
Anthony D. Léger
Northeast Regional Chief,
National Wildlife Refuge System

8-17-2005
Date

Approved by:

Marvin E. Moriarty ACTING *st*
Marvin E. Moriarty
Regional Director, Region 5

8-24-05
Date

Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 279, Water Street

Milbridge, ME 04658-0279

207/546-2124

petitmanan@fws.gov

<http://petitmanan.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Website

<http://www.fws.gov>

For National Wildlife Refuge System Information:

1800/344 WILD

<http://www.refuges.fws.gov>

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April 2005



**Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge
Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan
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Abstract

Type of action: Administrative
Lead agency: U.S. Department of the Interior,
Fish and Wildlife Service
Responsible official: Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director, Region 5
For further information: Refuge Manager
P.O. Box 279, Water Street
Milbridge, ME 04658-0279
207-546-2124

This Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is the culmination of an intensive planning process involving State and local partners, Refuge neighbors, private landowners, and the local community. The direction in this CCP includes an expansion of the Petit Manan Refuge unit by 2,306 acres beyond its current approved boundary. The expansion includes 87 nationally significant seabird, wading bird, and bald eagle coastal nesting islands and 153 acres of wetlands on the mainland. This CCP also adds six new seabird restoration projects to our present six, and intensifies the focus of our biological programs on birds of high conservation priority in the Gulf of Maine. It increases opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, especially in our environmental education and interpretive programs, builds new trails on the Gouldsboro Bay, Sawyers Marsh, and Corea Heath divisions, and opens the Petit Manan Point Division to deer hunting. It also recommends that 13 Refuge islands in 8 wilderness study areas be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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