

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 12879
MEPA Analyst: Arthur Pugsley
Phone: 617-626-1029

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Eastern Point Salt Marsh Restoration		
Street: Eastern Point Boulevard		
Municipality: Gloucester	Watershed: North Coastal	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 19 362609E 4718649N	Latitude: 42° 36' 36"	Longitude: 70° 40' 30"
Estimated commencement date: Oct., 2002	Estimated completion date: Nov., 2002	
Approximate cost: \$ 45,000	Status of project design:	95 %complete
Proponent: Massachusetts Audubon Society		
Street: 208 S. Great Road		
Municipality: Lincoln	State: MA	Zip Code: 01773
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Tim Purinton		
Firm/Agency: Massachusetts Audubon Soc.	Street: 346 Grapevine Road	
Municipality: Wenham	State: MA	Zip Code: 01984
Phone: 978 927-1122, ext. 2704	Fax: 978-922-8487	E-mail: tpurinton@massaudubon.org

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): None

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: City of Gloucester Order of Conditions, MA DEP Ch. 91 License, MACZM Consistency Review, ACOE PGPII under Section 10, Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the CWA

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	.16 acre			
New acres of land altered		Less than 500 sq. ft.		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	0	0	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0	
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of

Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

- A. The project is located at the Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary in the City of Gloucester, Massachusetts. It is a proactive project supported by Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program and the NOAA Habitat Restoration Center. The sanctuary is owned and operated by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The sanctuary is approximately 53 acres and contains upland forest and meadow, red maple swamp, a freshwater marsh, salt marsh, rocky shoreline, and a sand/gravel beach. The project area is within the gravel parking lot and access road to the parking lot and an adjacent grassed upland area and gravel beach totaling approximately 7,340 sq. ft. or .16 acre. The small parking area, owned by Massachusetts Audubon, serves both visitors to the Audubon sanctuary and visitors to the adjacent Dog Bar Breakwater. Mass Audubon proposes to install 56' of new culvert (2' x 4') and construct a new tidal channel (4' wide) in an upland area. The channel will connect with an existing box culvert that services ditches and creeks in the restricted salt marsh.
- B. Much of the wetland habitat areas within the Audubon sanctuary are degraded. This is especially so within the salt marsh, where tidal flushing has been restricted. A road, constructed many years ago to provide access to the breakwater and the Eastern Point Lighthouse, blocked a small creek connecting the salt marsh to the harbor. A 24-inch culvert installed under the road to allow some flow of water is now completely plugged with sediment on the downstream (harbor) side. The upstream side, within the marsh, is almost completely blocked by debris, sediment, and invasive vegetation.

Monitoring data point out the degraded condition of this important salt marsh. Tidal flow within the marsh is almost non-existent. Virtually no salt water enters the marsh and fresh water drains out extremely slowly. Salinity within the marsh has been measured at 3.5 parts per thousand compared to 23.2 on the harbor side and 32.0 on the ocean side. The salt marsh provides essentially no habitat for fish, since it's both physically and hydrologically disconnected from the harbor. In addition, the artificial freshness of the marsh has led to the establishment of invasive plant species, such as purple loosestrife and common reed. These plants thrive in fresh to brackish conditions, displacing native salt marsh plant species, such as salt marsh hay, spike grass, and black grass, further degrading the value of the marsh for birds, shellfish, and other marine species.

An alternative to the preferred restoration technique of the salt marsh was considered. It included replacing the existing blocked 24" culvert. This alternative was dismissed because the outlet of the culvert was determined to be in an area subject to acute sedimentation and erosion given its position relative to prevailing wind and current. This is believed to have lead to the current condition of the culvert. Review of historic sanctuary maps show the preferred alternative was the site of historic tidal flow.

Impacts of the alternative are all positive in that more resource areas will be created, as we propose to convert upland to wetland along the new channel, and by re-introducing tidal flow habitat values will be enhanced. No off-site alternatives were considered.

- C. Mitigation is not required for this is a wetland restoration project.

For more information on the Project Description please see attached Engineering Report