

Estuary Restoration Act
Estuary Habitat Restoration Council
Ranked Proposal Recommendations
June 12, 2013

1. Grassy Flats Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project, FL

This project will cap anoxic, fine-grained organic sediments (i.e., muck); resulting in the restoration and enhancement of 22 acres of critical estuarine habitat.

2. Humboldt Bay *Spartina* Eradication, CA

The project will restore Humboldt Bay native marsh communities and ecosystem functions by removing invasive dense flowered cord grass (*Spartina densiflora*) (“*Spartina*”) as part of a regional eradication program.

3. Eelgrass Restoration in Puget Sound, WA

The overall goal of this proposed regional-scale eelgrass restoration is to capitalize on current estuary restoration efforts and to contribute to the Puget Sound Partnership’s Action Agenda recovery goal of 20% more eelgrass by 2020. The objective is to restore eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) at three river delta locations within the Puget Sound region of the Salish Sea: the Nisqually, Elwha, and Skokomish Rivers.

4. The Cedar Beach Creek Habitat Restoration Demonstration Project: Beneficial Re-Use of Dredge Material, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Planting, and Oyster Reef Establishment.

The Cedar Beach Creek Habitat Restoration Demonstration Project will restore local essential ecosystem functions in a degraded marsh system by restoring 19.5 acres of salt marsh, 1.7 acres of seagrass meadow, and 3 acres of open water.

5. Oyster Restoration for Ecosystem Services and Fish Habitat in Great Bay Estuary, NH

The project will restore 10 acres of native oyster reefs and a total of 2 million oysters in Great Bay Estuary. The selected restoration sites are areas of degraded but persisting reefs that have been closed to harvest due to wastewater treatment outfalls in the tributaries, thereby precluding future harvest and maximizing spawner sanctuary potential.

6. Restoration of Eelgrass and Bay Scallops to the Coastal Bays of Virginia

This project will return eelgrass habitat to the coastal bays of Virginia’s coast, and once established, introduce the closest extant population of bay scallop, a species native to NC.

7. Community-based Restoration of Eelgrass in Frenchman Bay, ME

This project will expand previous restoration that has occurred in Frenchman Bay, adding an additional 214 acres of eelgrass habitat.

8. St. Lucie River Oyster Reef Habitat Restoration Project – Phase 2, FL

The proposed restoration of 2 acres of oyster reef in the St. Lucie Estuary will provide habitat for approximately 3 million oysters, which positively affects the ecological health of the water body and provides shoreline protection.

9. Deadman's Island Restoration Fish Habitat Breakwater Project - Phase 2, FL

The proposed project will remove a non-functional 750 foot breakwater and add 200 feet of oyster reef structures to complete a 950 foot breakwater. These actions will protect environmental and cultural resources.

10. Farm Pond Tidal Restoration, MA

The primary goal of this project is to restore the natural tidal hydrology by replacing the existing 4-foot diameter culvert with a 16-foot wide opening. The existing culvert is restrictive and mutes the pond's tidal prism.

11. Middle Island Restoration/Massey's Ditch Beneficial Re-use Project, DE

The proposed project will use dredged material to restore 5 acres of sandy beach and 5 acres of Spartina marsh in the Inland Bays estuary lost due to erosion. The restoration will aid in tidal exchange and create shallow-water habitat for fish and shellfish.

12. Round Hill Salt Marsh Restoration Project, MA

This project will restore historically filled Round Hill salt marsh and pond complex. Fill placed on the marsh in the early 1900s will be removed, salt marsh plant species will be planted, and a culvert will be replaced to reconnect the area with contiguous salt marsh and normal tidal exchange with Buzzards Bay.