

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



River Herring
Alosa pseudoharengus (Alewife) and *Alosa aestivalis* (Blueback Herring)
 River herring ascend coastal rivers from the Gulf of Maine each spring to freshwater spawning areas. They are an important food source for predatory fish, seals, and birds. Many organizations are working to improve fish migration by repairing fish ladders, restoring critical habitats, and removing outdated dams.



Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias
 The great blue is the largest heron in New Hampshire estuaries, but most nest in communal rookeries found in forested wetlands. Protection of these wetlands is important to maintaining healthy populations of these majestic birds.



Common Tern
Sterna hirundo
 Common terns nest on offshore islands such as Seavey and White Islands in the Isles of Shoals. Swift and agile in flight, terns frequently travel from their nesting areas to the estuaries where they dive into the water to catch fish.

Gundalow
 A gundalow is a working boat of the 1600s that transported lumber, coal, and salt marsh hay throughout the Great Bay Estuary. Today, the only floating gundalow, the Captain Edward H. Adams, is a platform for public education about the cultural and environmental significance of New Hampshire's estuaries.



Eelgrass
Zostera marina
 Eelgrass is an essential habitat that provides food for wintering waterfowl and nursery areas for juvenile fish. Eelgrass, like the oyster, filters estuarine waters and removes nutrients and suspended sediments, thus improving water quality. Scientists are concerned that eelgrass habitat has declined in recent years.



Soft-shell Clam
Mya arenaria
 Harvesting of soft-shell clams, commonly called steamers, is an important part of coastal New Hampshire culture. However, bacterial contamination from stormwater runoff or failed septic systems restricts clam harvesting. Prevention of water pollution will result in increased opportunities to harvest clams.



Identify and Report Water Pollution

If you see an oil or hazardous waste spill, call 911 or the local fire department immediately. It is important to recognize a pollution incident quickly to protect our environment. The following are common water conditions and likely causes.

- Grey water that smells of sewage – suggests a failed septic system or a damaged sewer pipe
- Bright white foam with a detergent smell – suggests an improper washing machine discharge
- Murky water flowing from a pipe during dry weather – suggests an improper connection to a sewer system
- Oily sheen on water and a petroleum odor – suggests improper chemical disposal
- Muddy water – suggests poor erosion control from construction activities
- Green or brown stringy slime – suggests excessive nutrients entering water
- Trash in the water – suggests improper waste management

If you suspect water pollution, contact your local Health Inspector, Department of Public Works and/or the Conservation Commission. If the incident persists, contact the NHDES Coastal Watershed Supervisor at 603-559-1507.

Check out www.nhep.unh.edu to learn more about protecting New Hampshire's estuaries.

New Hampshire Estuaries
 Estuaries are partially enclosed bodies of tidally influenced water between the freshwater of rivers and streams and the saltwater of the sea. New Hampshire's two major estuaries are Great Bay and Hampton-Seabrook. These estuaries are uniquely productive and important natural, economic, and cultural resources.

