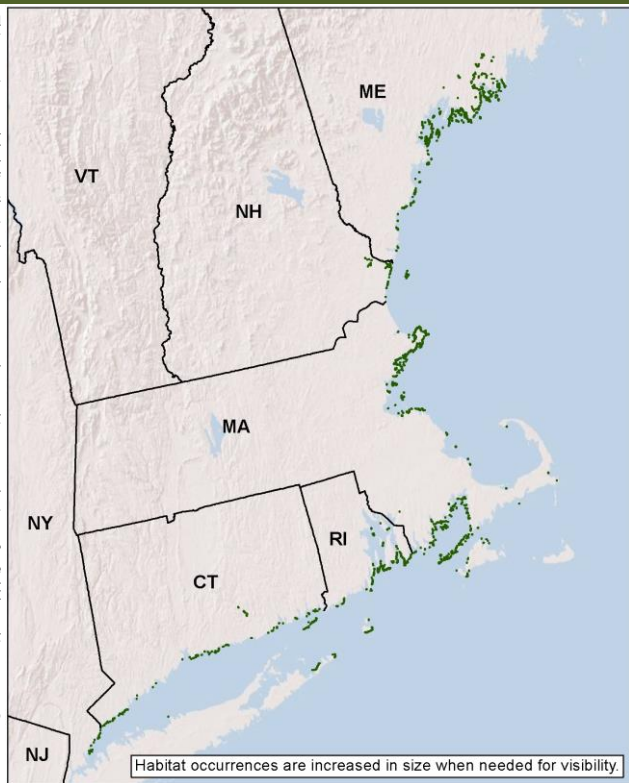




## Macrogroup: Rocky Coast

This map is a modeled distribution based on current data and is not a substitute for field based inventory. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist for more information about this habitat.



© Josh Royte (The Nature Conservancy, Maine)

### Description:

An open rocky shoreline found in the narrow zone between the high tide line and the upland wooded areas. These intertidal zones of solid rock are often covered with seaweeds that tolerate extremes of exposure to winds, waves, currents, and ice-scour. Blue-green algae are common in the high intertidal zones; barnacles in the mid-intertidal zone; mussels in the lower intertidal. Diagnostic species include seaweeds (Irish moss, rockweed, knotted wrack, hollow-stemmed kelp) and invertebrates (blue mussels, common periwinkles, dogwhelks, and springtails). Tide pools provide nurseries for lumpfish, sea snails, pollock, and other fish. Many bird species frequent these: purple sandpiper, ruddy turnstone, sanderling, black-bellied plover, American oystercatcher, and pectoral sandpiper.

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

This system is found on rocky shores from the New England coast to the Canadian Maritimes. Slopes vary from flat rocks to cliffs. The intertidal zone widens with increasing maritime influence, and subjects these landscapes to extremes of wind, salt spray, and fog. Many coastal islands in this zone have graminoid-shrub areas that were maintained by sheep grazing and that now persist even after grazing has ceased.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Other bare rock system types in which environmental conditions discourage the growth of trees and many other types of vegetation include Great Lakes Alvar, Southern and Central Appalachian Mafic Glade and Barrens, among others, though obvious biogeographic and ecological differences exist. Maritime forests and coastal heathlands and grasslands are often just inland.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Unique and Man-Made - Coastal Bluffs and Headlands (CT), Rocky Coastlines (MA), Rocky Coastlines and Islands (ME), Coastal Islands (NH), Intertidal - Estuarine Rocky Shore Bedrock (RI)

**State Distribution:** CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 7,706

**Percent Conserved:** 16.6%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
ME	41%	3,146	270	223	2,653
MA	34%	2,626	150	305	2,171
RI	14%	1,064	97	61	907
CT	5%	417	45	14	358
NY	3%	242	0	55	187
NH	3%	211	5	57	149

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Unique And Man-Made - Coastal Bluffs And Headlands (CT), Marine Intertidal: Rocky Shore (MA), Crowberry - Bayberry Headland (ME), Coastal Rocky Headland (NH), Marine Rocky Intertidal (NY), Rocky Shore (RI)

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**

Selden Neck Island State Park | CT  
 Boston Harbor Islands State Park | MA  
 Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge | ME  
 Hither Hills State Park | NY  
 Bay Islands | RI

**Associated Species:** *Appendix lists scientific names*

**BIRDS:** american black duck, atlantic puffin, black duck, common eider, great black-backed gull, great cormorant, herring gull, leach's storm petrel, northern gannet, razorbill, wintering purple sandpiper

**INSECTS:** crowberry blue butterfly

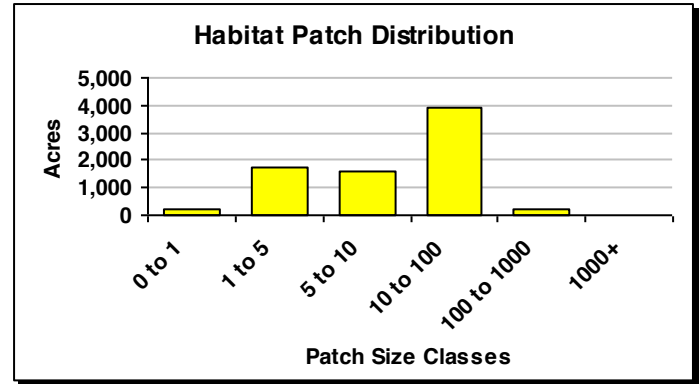
**PLANTS:** beach plum (*Prunus maritima*), bird's-eye primrose (*Primula mistassinica*), marsh felwort (*Lomatogonium rotatum*), nova scotia false foxglove (*Agalinis neoscotica*)

**Species of Concern (G1-G4):** *Appendix lists scientific names*

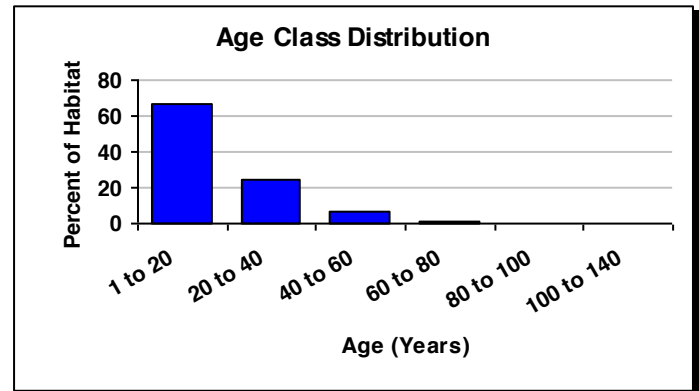
**INSECTS:** crowberry blue butterfly



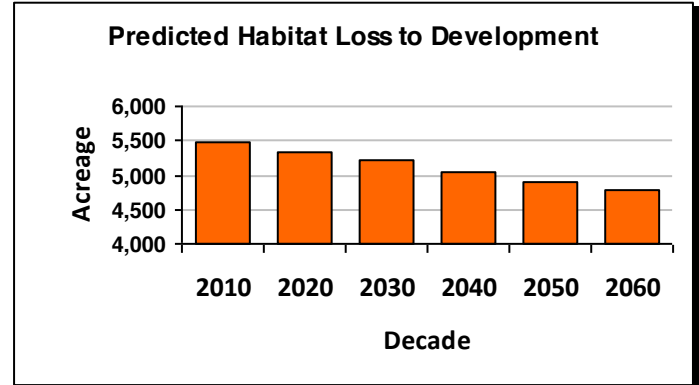
© Maine Natural Areas Program



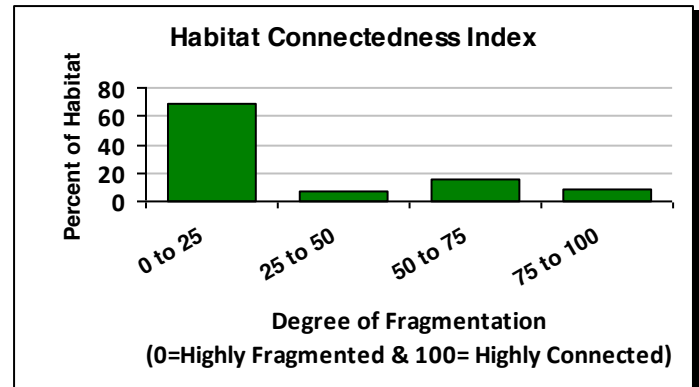
The average patch size for this habitat is 2 acres and the largest single patch is 81 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



This chart shows the average age of trees associated with this habitat based on forest inventory data. For non-forested systems or small habitats the average age is influenced by the surroundings.



This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (689 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 14 acres per year.



This metric measures how connected or fragmented the land directly surrounding (18 square miles) the habitat is, this the chart shows the proportion of the habitat in each connectedness class.