



Open Ocean Restoration Area

Seabird Bycatch Reduction in Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada Fisheries (*preferred*)



Photo by J M Arcos

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project would reduce seabird bycatch in the northeastern United States and Atlantic Canada commercial fisheries by working cooperatively with fishermen and other partners to implement bycatch reduction strategies and improve understanding of seabird bycatch. Northern gannets and great shearwaters are attracted by concentrations of fish. As such, they frequently encounter commercial fishing operations, which can lead to direct mortality through interactions with fishing gear. The proposed project would work with specific fisheries to identify areas and times when seabird interactions are most likely and test voluntary fishing practice modifications to reduce bycatch.

This project, estimated to cost \$5 million, would be implemented over approximately 6 years.

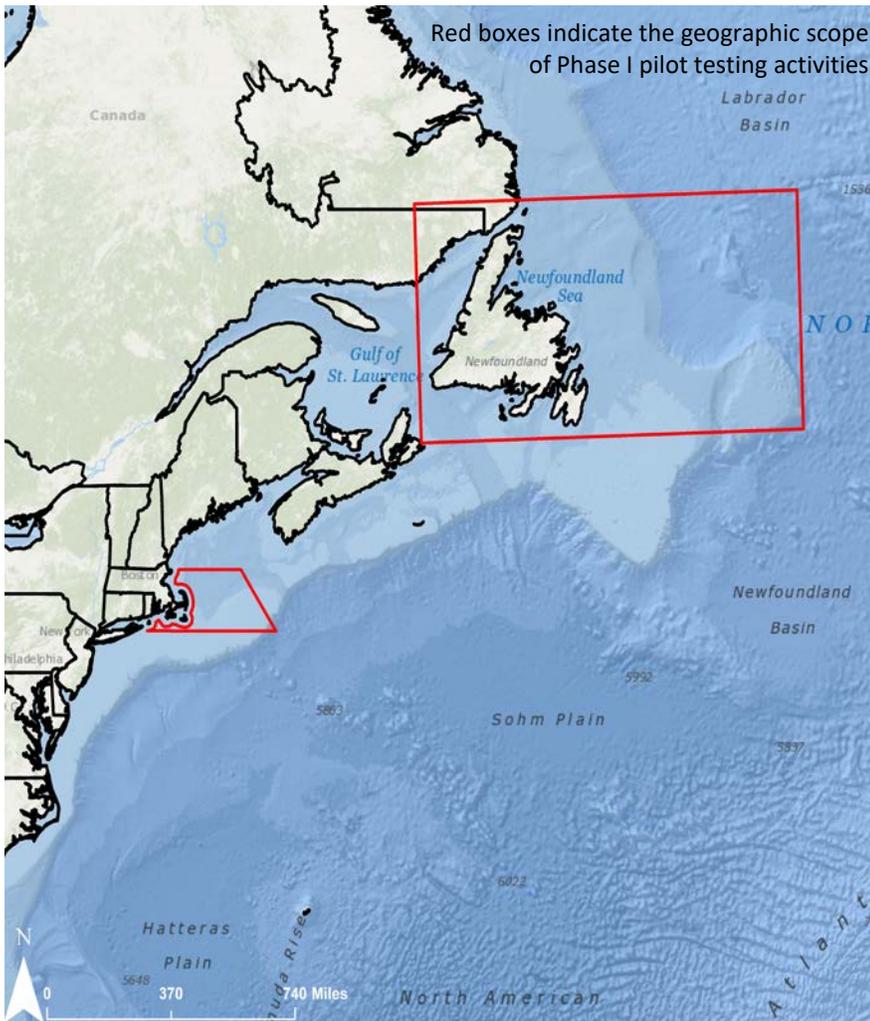
RESTORATION TYPE: Birds

Project Benefits

- Cooperatively implement seabird bycatch reduction strategies
- Improve understanding of seabird bycatch
- Target species:
 - Great shearwaters
 - Northern gannets



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RESTORATION TECHNIQUE



Bycatch Reduction

Restoration activities would be conducted in phases. Phase I would include pilot testing of bycatch reduction strategies such as baiting practice modifications, visual deterrents, gear switching and modification, gear soak time (i.e., the length of time that lines remain in the water); modeling of conditions that lead to seabird-fisheries interactions in north Atlantic waters to inform the location and scale of bycatch reduction strategies; and establishing and expanding partnerships with commercial fisheries to improve understanding of seabird bycatch.

Phase 2 would include pilot testing additional bycatch reduction strategies in additional fisheries; conducting field studies to gather local knowledge of seabird-fishery interactions; and expanding voluntary use of effective seabird bycatch strategies.

Implementing Trustees:
U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in partnership with several entities

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contact the Open Ocean TIG
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or visit
www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean

