

Taunton Bay

Franklin & Hancock

Description:

Outside of Cobscook Bay, the Taunton Bay estuary is one of Downeast Maine’s most important aggregations of bald eagle nest sites. Large tidal amplitude combined with gentle topography and freshwater tributaries in this region provide extensive intertidal mud flats in protected bays. Its marine and estuarine habitats are important for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, particularly black ducks. Hundreds of shorebirds feed here annually, and it is the northern limit for horseshoe crabs.

Rare Species and Exemplary Natural Community Table for Taunton Bay

Common Name	Latin Name	S-RANK	G-RANK	State Status
<i>Rare Animals</i>				
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	S4	G4	T

Other Habitats Mapped by MDIFW:

Tidal Waterfowl / Wading Bird Habitat
 Shorebird Feeding and Roosting Area
 Bald Eagle Essential Habitat

Conservation Considerations:

- An increase in shoreline development can have adverse impacts on the habitat of the bay itself through runoff, siltation, and loss of habitat buffer.
- Loss of habitat, rockweed harvesting, the potential impacts of an oil spill, are concerns when considering the impact of human activities on the bay.
- Barriers to anadromous fish passage by dams and other sources threaten a productive fishery and in turn may have impacts on other species like bald eagles that feed on alewives and other species. Dam removal or the installation of man-made fishways can help to alleviate this threat.
- Significant alteration to the nutrient load in through agricultural runoff, shoreline development or aquaculture would likely disrupt nutrient cycling in the bay.

Protection Status:

Two areas of shoreline have been protected: the 107-acre Egypt Bay parcel is owned by MDIFW, and MDIFW holds a conservation easement on 110 acres at Butler Point. MDIFW also owns the Little Islands, two small islands in the northwest part of the Bay.