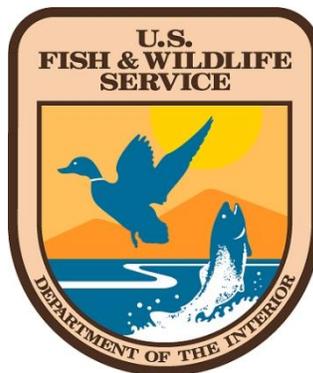


**Project #33: Wetland Restoration on the Lower Housatonic River Project Annual  
Summary Report**

**Prepared for the Trustee SubCouncil for the Geographic Area of Connecticut**

**Reporting Period: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013**

**Submitted by Paul Capotosto**



The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Wildlife Division, Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management (WHAMM) program was awarded funding to restore wetlands within the lower Housatonic River that have been degraded by the non-native invasive form of the plant Phragmites (*Phragmites australis americanus*). Restoration is to be accomplished by herbiciding and mowing plants over a three-year period, thereby increasing the habitat quality of this ecosystem and the survival and fitness of fish and wildlife using these habitats.

A summary of accomplishments during the time period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, is as follows:

#### Outreach and Project Preparation

The WHAMM Program has continued to talk with property owners about the three-year project.

#### Implementation

Vendors were hired to implement the second phase of the Phragmites control work. All Habitat Services is working on the Stratford side. Innovative Mosquito Management is working on the Milford side. The second phase included herbiciding and mowing the Phragmites in both communities; herbiciding was done in the summer months (July- September), mowing was done in the winter months. The WHAMM program worked with the two conservation commissions from the town of Stratford and the City of Milford and the mayor's office of Stratford and Milford to inform the public that this work was being implemented and completed. Five hundred acres were herbicide and mowed.

#### Equipment

The WHAMM Program's Marsh Master II vehicle with sprayer, mower and trailer was use to do Phragmites control.

#### Personnel

The WHAMM Program's two durational positions assisted in this Phragmites control.

#### Monitoring

The WHAMM Program monitored bird and vegetation in several areas of the Housatonic River Phragmites control project site. Four sites were used on the river from the mouth to the northern area past the Route 15 Bridge. Post-treatment bird surveys indicated no birds in the mowed down Phragmites areas.



Power Line Marsh mowed in Milford



Devon area mowed with Marsh Master II in Milford



Sikorsky Marsh mowing in Stratford

Aerial pictures were taken in a helicopter hired by DEEP. Roger Wolfe, EAIII was the photographer and photos taken on October 10, 2012. Photos show Phragmites sprayed in summer of 2012.



Carting Island in Stratford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



Fowler Island in Milford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



Great Creek Golf Course and Sikorsky – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



Power Line Marsh in Milford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



Turkey Hill Brook in Milford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



Lower Housatonic in Devon, Milford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12