

# BIRD ISLAND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION BUZZARDS BAY MARION, MA

*Bird Island is one of only three small islands along the coast of the U.S. that still provides the critical nesting habitat for the endangered Northeast population of Roseate Tern.*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Location: Bird Island, Buzzards Bay,  
off the Coast of Marion, MA

Contractor: Cashman Dredging and  
Marine Contracting Company, LLC

Contract No.: W912WJ15C0041

Dollar Value: \$3.12 Million

Start/Completion: Oct 2015- April 2017

## OWNER INFORMATION / CONTACT

Awarding Authority / Owner:

Project partnered by USACE New  
England District (65% funding) /  
Mass. Dept. of Fish & Game (35%)

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USACE Project Manager

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## BIRD ISLAND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

BUZZARDS BAY  
MARION, MA

The project involves the reconstruction of Bird Island, a 4-acre gravel and boulder-composed island in Buzzards Bay, about a half-mile off the coast of Sippican Point and 3 miles from the Marion Town Wharf.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The project included barging in ~13,000 tons of armor stone and the reconstruction / repair of ~1,000 linear feet (LF) of stone revetment surrounding Bird Island; importing and filling ~5,000 cubic yards (yd<sup>3</sup>) of gravel on the island; and planting native vegetation in order to re-establish and expand habitat for federally endangered terns.
- Access to the island is by shallow-draft boat or barge and required installation of a temporary unloading platform extending off the island.
- Installation of two pile structures was allowed in the near-shore area. A staging / loading area was made available at the Marion Town Wharf.
- Construction on the island is limited to an environmental window between Sept. 8 and April 6 due to nesting patterns. The project will take two construction seasons (with restoration completion by April 2017).

