



Bird Island Ecosystem Restoration

MARION, MASSACHUSETTS

The project involved 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. This two-year, multi-million dollar state and federal project elevated the island from the encroaching ocean water to preserve the nesting habitat of endangered sea birds and to save a historic lighthouse.

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 of gravel on the island; and planting native vegetation in order to reestablish 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.
- The project took two construction seasons (with restoration completed by April 2017) because construction on the island was limited to an environmental window between September 8 and April 6 due to nesting patterns.

Location:	Bird Island, Buzzard's Bay Marion, MA
Contractor:	Cashman Dredging & Marine Contracting Company, LLC
Contract Dates:	Oct. 2015 – April 2017
Contract No.:	W912WJ15C0041
Dollar Value:	\$5.8 Million
Awarding Authority / Owner:	USACE, New England District (65% funding) / Mass. Dept. of Fish & Game (35%)
Owner Contact / Details:	Adam Burnett /USACE PM 978.318.8547 / adam.w.burnett@usace.army.

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.

