



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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[MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE](https://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

DATE: July 26, 2021
TO: Conservation Commission, Building Inspector, Planning Board
RE: Publication of the 15th Edition Natural Heritage Atlas (Priority & Estimated Habitat Map of rare species), effective August 1, 2021

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA, M.G.L. c. 131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.12), the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife would like to inform you of the availability of the 15th Edition Natural Heritage Atlas, effective August 1, 2021.

Access to Priority and Estimated Habitat maps is provided through a variety of sources:

- An interactive map viewer with address-matching capability is available online
- GIS datalayers for both Priority and Estimated Habitat can be downloaded from MassGIS (appropriate software required for use)
- Large-scale PDF maps for each Town containing Priority Habitat are available for download, viewing, or printing
- A large-scale Town map may be purchased from NHESP

Links to the above resources can be found on our website at:

www.mass.gov/service-details/regulatory-maps-priority-estimated-habitats

Please note it is the responsibility of the landowner or project proponent to determine if their project falls within Priority or Estimated Habitat and requires review. Failure to file under MESA constitutes a violation of the Act and is subject to a fine (pursuant to 10.06). We ask that the Towns assist directing proponents to the above resources as applicable.

If you have additional questions regarding this notification, please contact NHESP at natural.heritage@mass.gov or (508) 389-6360.

Thank you for working with us to protect the Commonwealth's state-listed species.

RECEIVED

JUL 26 2021

Town of Chilmark
Board of Selectmen
Front Desk

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