

# THRIVING HABITATS AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

## ECOSYSTEM TARGETS

The following ambitious, but achievable, ecosystem targets have been developed to drive progress toward attaining the **Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife (HW)** goal. Achieving these targets can also contribute to the goals for the other themes. Likewise, multiple strategies and implementation actions throughout the four theme areas apply directly and indirectly to these targets. Measuring, tracking, and reporting environmental indicators of each ecosystem target will provide information to assess progress and refine and adapt management as needed.

**Coastal Habitat Extent:** Restore 350 acres of coastal habitat by 2020 and a total of 3,000 acres by 2035 from a 2014 baseline, including:

- **Eelgrass Extent:** Restore and maintain 2,000 additional acres of eelgrass by 2035 from a 2012 baseline of 2,061 acres.
- **Tidal Wetland Extent:** Restore 515 additional acres of tidal wetlands by 2035 from a 2014 baseline.

**River Miles Restored for Fish Passage:** Open 200 additional miles of fish riverine migratory corridors in the Connecticut and New York portions of the watershed by 2035 from a 2014 baseline.

**Shellfish Harvested:** Increase the harvest of oysters, clams, and scallops in the Sound through a combination of habitat management and shellfish aquaculture.

**Habitat Connectivity:** Increase connectivity of coastal habitat by 2035 by restoring and/or protecting habitat patches that increase biodiversity and support migratory pathways.

**Protected Open Space:** Conserve an additional 4,000 acres of Connecticut land and 3,000 acres of New York land within the LIS coastal boundary by 2035, while maintaining the total area of protected lands.

