

FACT SHEET

National Audubon Society, Inc.-Connecticut

In-Lieu Fee Program

The National Audubon Society, Inc., through its Connecticut program (Audubon-CT) is the sponsor of an “in-lieu fee” (ILF) program for aquatic resource compensatory mitigation required by Department of the Army authorizations. This program was approved by the New England District Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Audubon-CT on August 21, 2013. The program provides an alternative to Corps permittees who are required to compensate for their impacts to wetlands and waters of the United States in the State of Connecticut.

Prior to this program, permittees generally conducted their own compensatory mitigation, (permittee-responsible mitigation) including monitoring and maintenance. This ILF option involves paying a fee “in lieu of” permittee-responsible mitigation. The fee can be used for all the compensation or in combination with other permittee-responsible compensation.

As sponsor, Audubon-CT has no role in the Corps permit decision. Its role is to collect the fees from the Corps permit applicants; identify opportunities or projects for wetland restoration, enhancement, creation or preservation in the same service area as the impacts; oversee the execution of the projects and assure long-term stewardship. By aggregating funds from multiple permitted impacts, the ILF program can develop compensatory projects that offer greater ecological benefits than permittee -responsible mitigation and contribute to watershed level conservation goals. These compensatory mitigation projects will be subject to approval by the Corps in consultation with an interagency review team made up of state and federal agencies.

The program divides the State into six separate service areas based on watersheds. The watersheds and their current cost per square foot are listed in the table below. The service areas are attached.

Service Area	Notes	Credit Cost Per Square Foot ¹
Housatonic River		\$ 7.56
Southwest Coastal		\$ 11.97
South-central Coastal		\$ 9.89
Connecticut River		\$10.11
Thames River	South of I-95	\$10.80
	North of I-95	\$ 7.97
Southeast Coastal		\$ 9.46

¹ Costs are subject to change.



After receiving an application for a permit, the Corps reviews the project and assures that the applicant has avoided and minimized impacts to aquatic resources as much as possible. If there are remaining unavoidable impacts, and the applicant proposes to pay a fee to the ILF for some or all of these impacts, the Corps will determine the amount of the fee. The fee is calculated by multiplying the impact area by the fee charged for the particular service area in which the project occurs. If additional permittee-responsible mitigation is proposed, the fee may be reduced.

The Corps will include a special condition in its authorizations stating that no work can take place in aquatic resources until the ILF payment is received by Audubon-CT. The applicant then pays the fee by mailing a check to Audubon-CT, made out to “National Audubon Society, Inc.” and includes the “Connecticut In Lieu Fee, Project Impact Worksheet”. A copy of the check is then sent to the Corps. When Audubon-CT receives the check, it submits a sale of credit letter to the Corps acknowledging the transaction.

The entire ILF document and other information on the ILF program are available on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/InLieuFeePrograms.aspx>.



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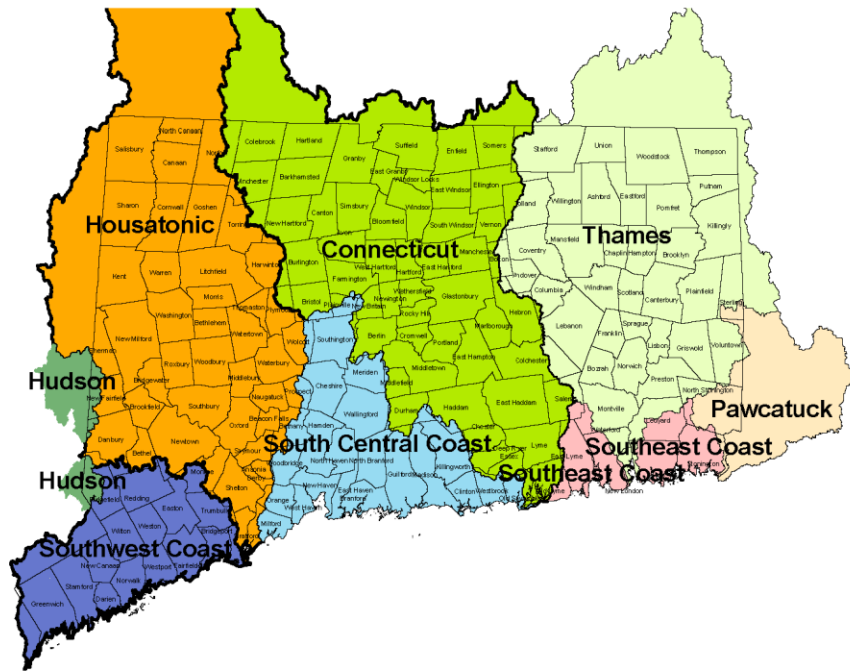


Figure 1. Towns and cities within the six Connecticut In- Lieu Fee Program service areas. (Note: The Housatonic Major Basin service area includes portions of the Hudson Major Basin; and the Southeast Coast Major Basin is combined with the Connecticut portion of the Pawcatuck Major Basin.)