

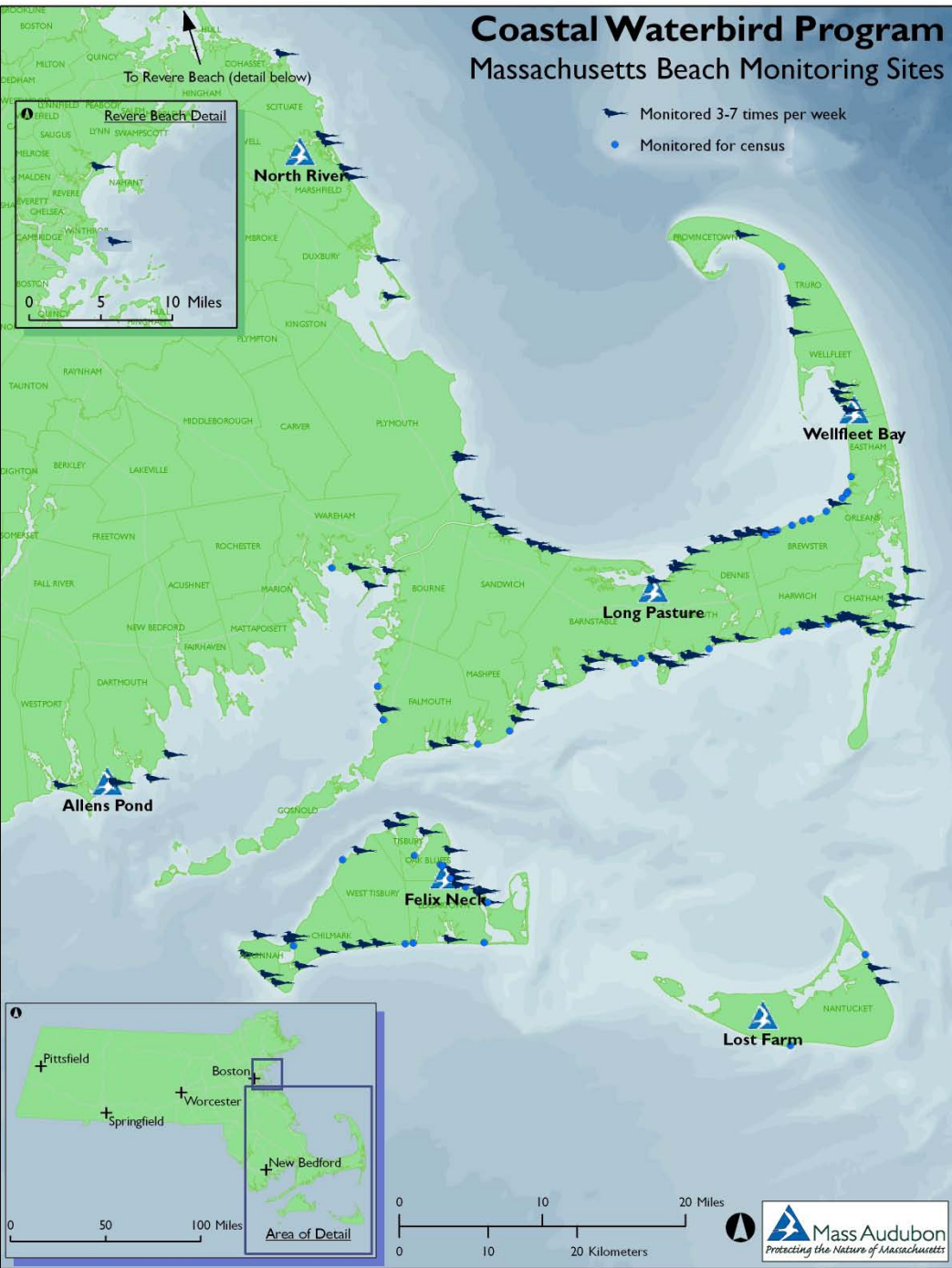
2009 American Oystercatcher Field Season Summary

*American Oystercatcher
Working Group Meeting
2009*

Coastal Waterbird Program



Coastal Waterbird Program Massachusetts Beach Monitoring Sites



Field Season 2009 Summary

- 40 pairs monitored at 28 sites
 - represents **22% of MA population** in 2009 (181 pairs)
 - **increase of 13%** (32 pairs monitored/201) from 2008
 - **11 additional sites** compared to 2008
- Collaborative project with Manomet, USFWS-Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, City University of New York
- also included over 20 partners with 30 individuals contributing data or logistical support

American Oystercatcher Breeding Pair Distribution, Massachusetts, 2008



Image MassGIS, Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOE
Image © 2009 TerraMetrics
Image NASA
Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

©2008 Google™

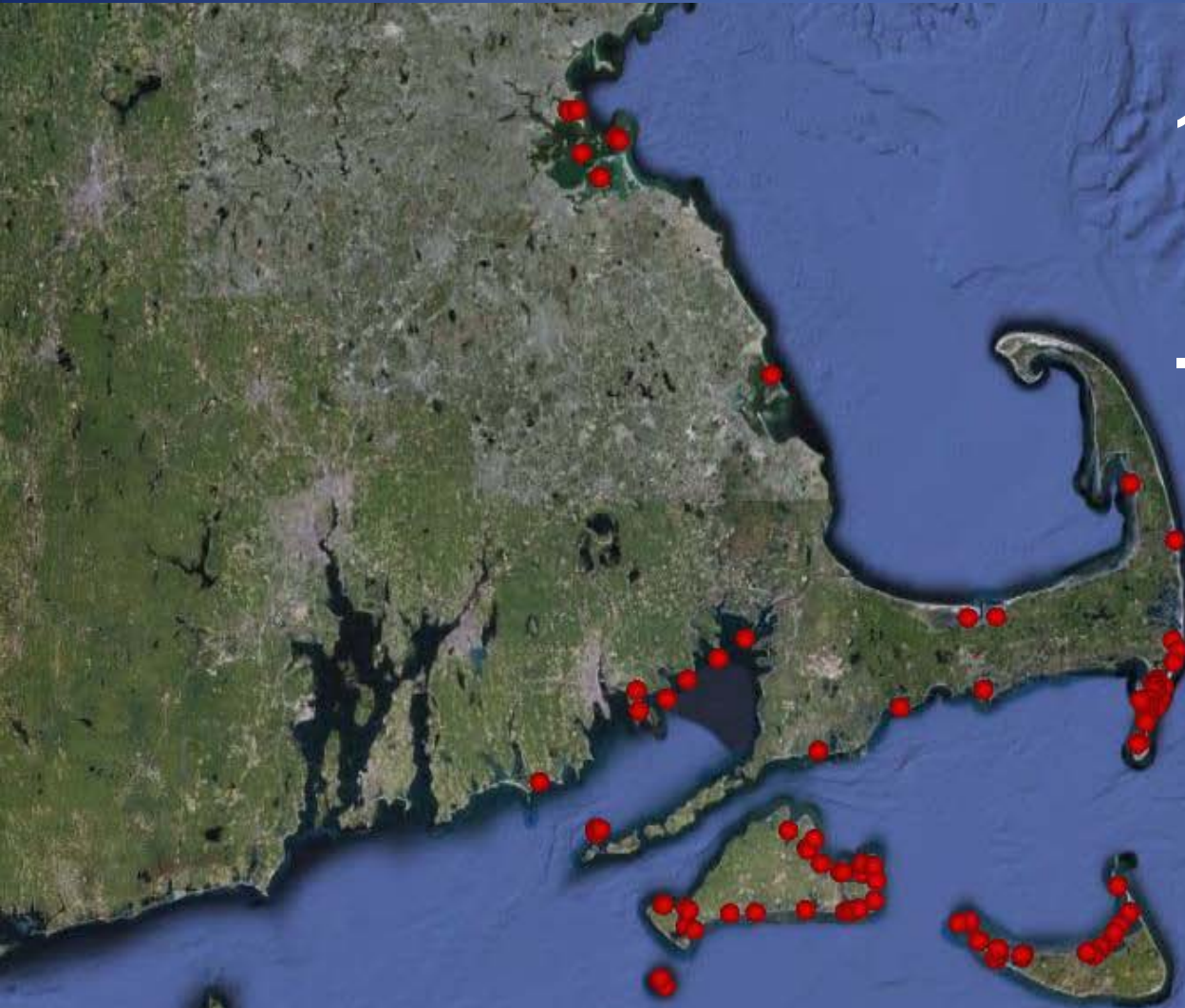
Eye alt 133.98 mi

American Oystercatcher Breeding Pair Distribution, Massachusetts, 2009

181 total pairs

**• Decrease of ~8%
from 2008?**

.38 chicks/pair



65 km

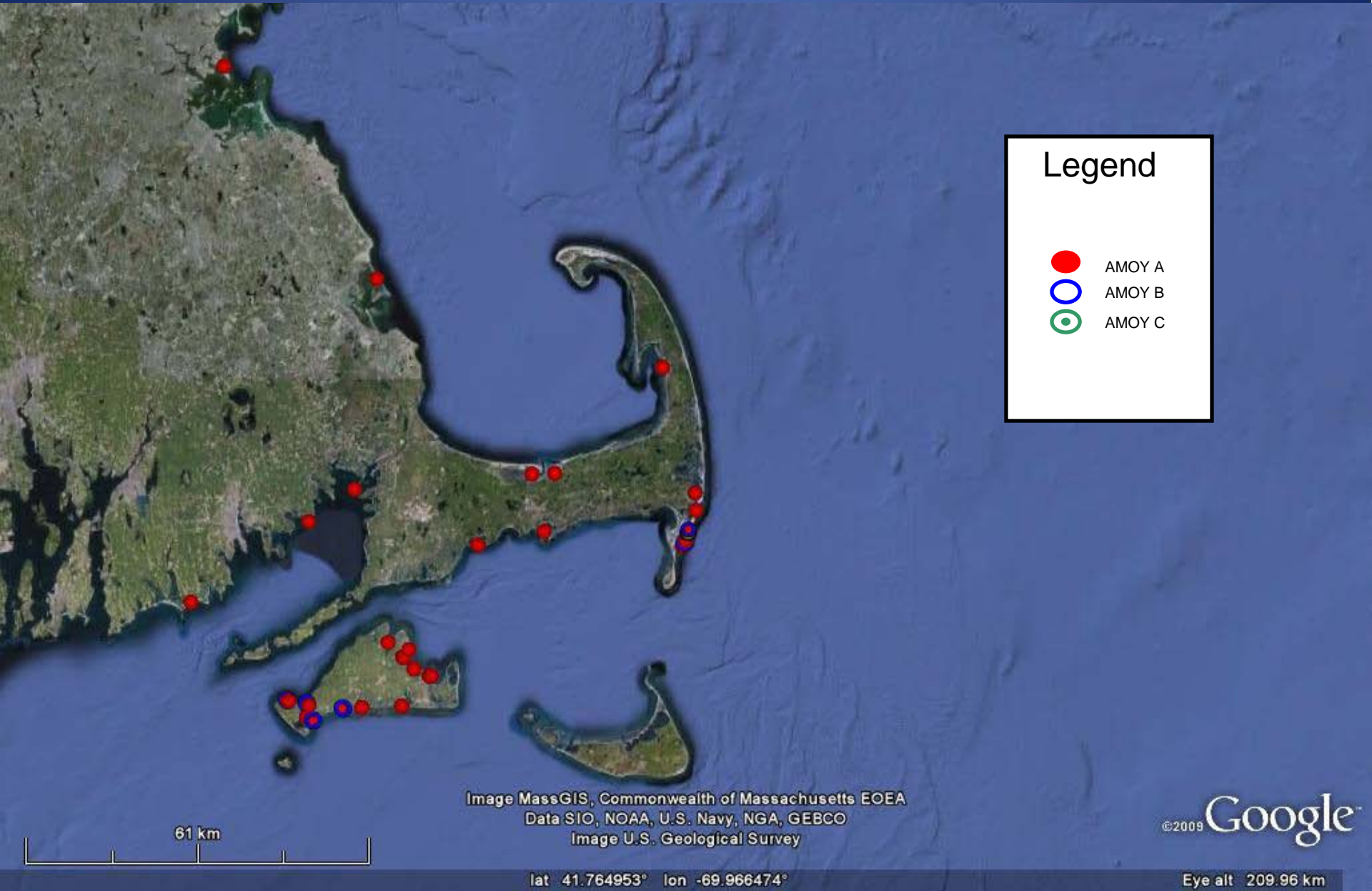
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image MassGIS, Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOEA
Image U.S. Geological Survey
Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

41°45'13.02" N 70°23'24.02" W

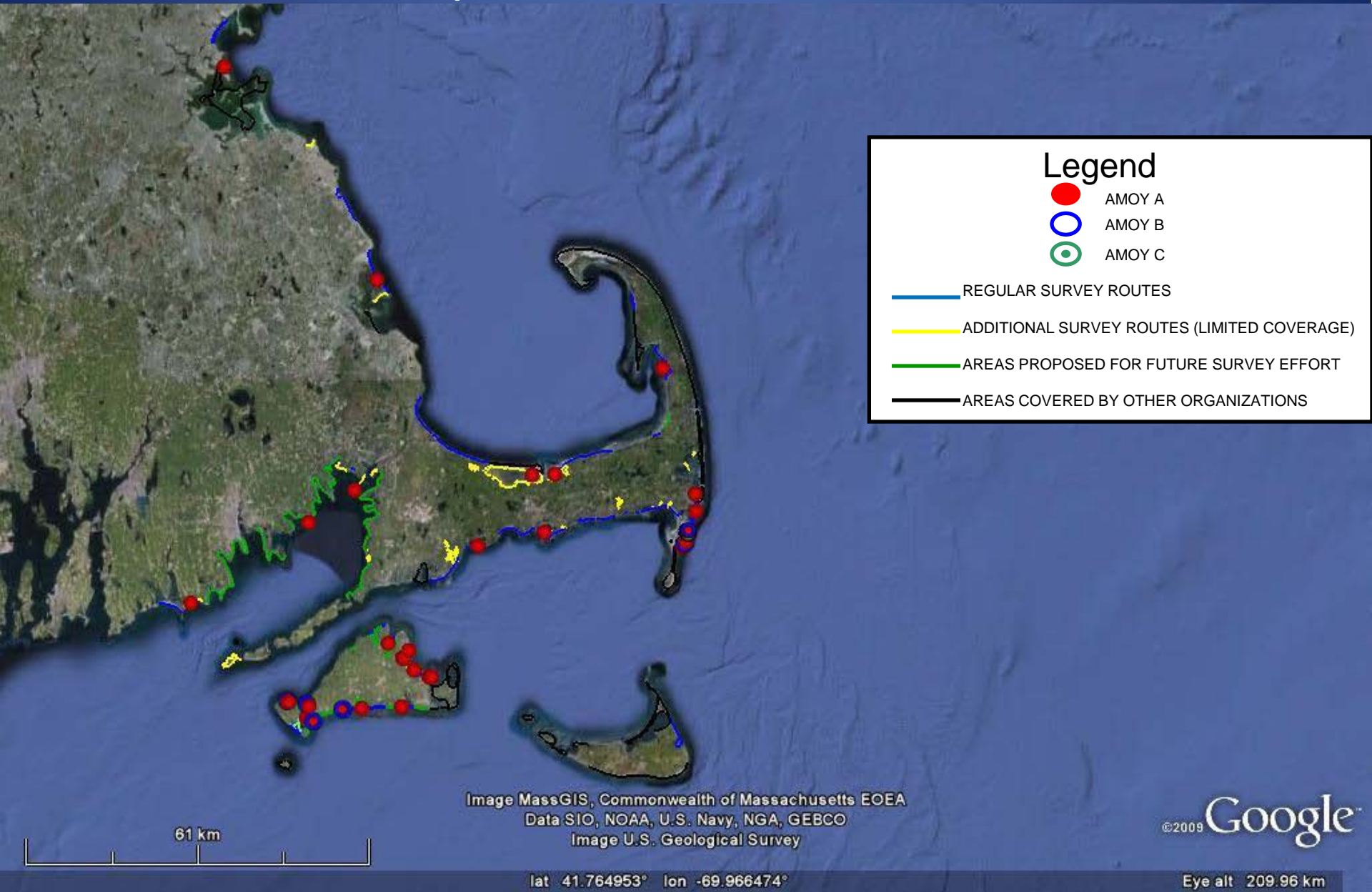
©2009 Google™

Eye alt 222.60 km

American Oystercatcher Nests Monitored by Mass Audubon, 2009



American Oystercatcher Nests Monitored by Mass Audubon, 2009



Field Season Preliminary Results 2009

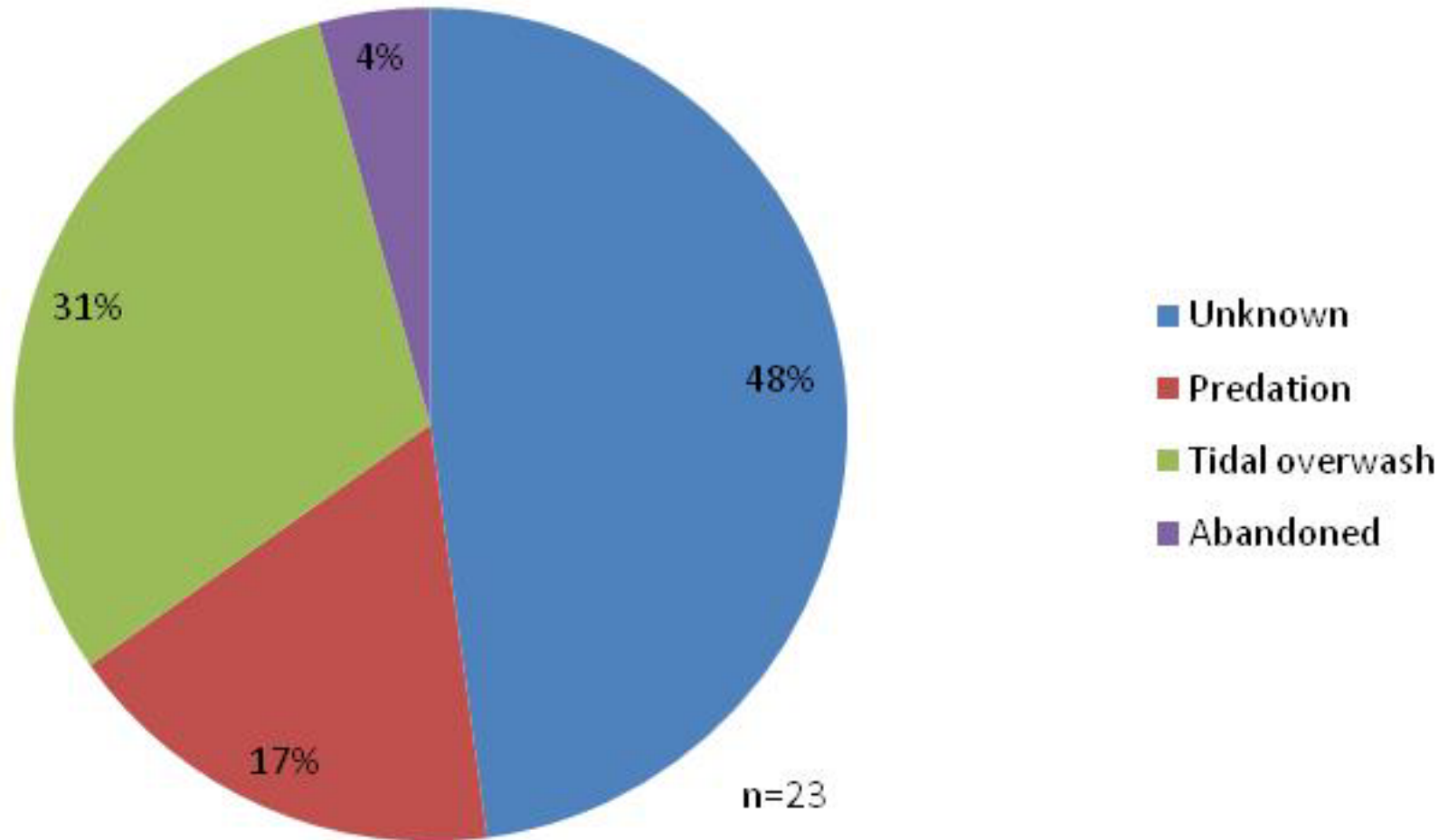
(Mass Audubon only)

- 32 pairs monitored \geq 3-4x week
- 8 additional pairs censused at least once
- 7 potential/breeding pairs documented in new locations
- Hatching success
 - 34% overall
 - 75% at sites with management (low predator fence, electric fence)
- Productivity
 - 16 chicks fledged out of 32 pairs regularly monitored (.5 chicks/pair)



Causes of American Oystercatcher Nest Loss, 2009

Coastal Waterbird Program, Mass Audubon



Field Season Preliminary Results 2009

- Erected Low Predator fencing at one site
 - 2/3 (66%) nests hatched
- Employed electric fencing at two sites
 - At one site, one nest was successfully protected in unelectrified fencing until hatch (3 weeks), however chicks were lost during nor'easter
 - At other site, Oystercatchers chose to nest outside electric fence



Nesting Habitat--Big Gravel Island, MV



New Nesting Locations- Nashaquitsa Pond



Field Season Preliminary Results 2009

Breeding/Post-breeding Banding and Resighting

- Helped band 50 adults/chicks over the breeding season
- 74 adult and fledglings resighted during breeding/post-breeding season
 - All birds identified hatched from MA, or were known MA breeders
- Post-breeding resight surveys
 - daily at 5 sites
 - weekly or bi-weekly at 11 sites
- Large post-breeding AMOY flocks present at 2 sites not observed in 2007 or 2008 (Nauset Marsh, Eastham and North Beach, Chatham).
- Movement between sites: up to 20 km on within 12 hrs

Flush Distance Estimates

- Assessed flush distances for 15 nesting pairs
- Difficulty in assessing flush distances on foot due to flightiness of pairs
- Proposal to use cameras in future years
- Buffer zones are best at maximum distance possible (>150 m)



Emerging Roosting Habitat— “New” Public Sites that Need Protection



AMOY breeding and post-breeding intertidal foraging areas

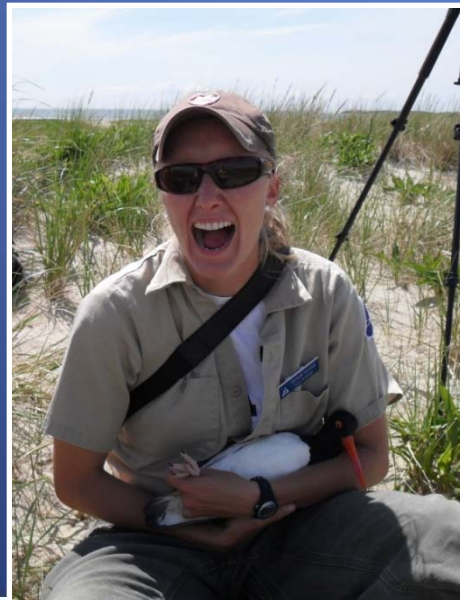


Thank you

Mass Audubon Staff

Liz Baldwin
Lily Calderwood
Ben Carroll
Edith Carson
Brittany Currier
Mark Faherty
Sarah Fierce
Stephanie Galla
Natasha Gallipeau
Gabrielle Gareau
Dave Israel
Ian Ives
Luanne Johnson
Abigail Laurence
Thera Lombardi
Gwen Murdock
Megan Nepshinsky
Michelle Stantial
Jen Saufler
Jonathan Schuster
Meredith Steck
Joli Sucy
Nuray Taygan
Chris Walz

Cape Cod National Seashore, Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, Mariah Mitchell Association, Tuckernuck Land Trust, Boston Harbor Islands National Park, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Town of Orleans, Town of Chatham, Three Bays Preservation, Zeiss Optics Goldenrod Foundation, The Nature Conservancy-Hoft Farm, MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, US Army Corps of Engineers, Duxbury Beach Reservation, MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Trustees of Reservations, Nantucket Conservation Foundation
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences



Volunteers and Collaborators

Karen Beattie
Barbara Bishop
Matt Boarman
Rick Bowes
Stephen Brown
Susannah Corona
Dick + Carol French
Mary Hake
Bill Hammatt
Kelly Hebert
Liz Hogan
Fran z Ingelfinger
Stephanie Koch
Bob Kennedy
Ken Morton
Carolyn Mostello
Sean Murphy
Terry Norton
John Pribilla
Betsey Richards
John Riehl
Jessica Schulz
Jeff Spendelow, USGS
Rich Stanton
Fred Streams
Carol Troki
Cheryl Creighton
Barb Williamson
Brad Winn
Emily Wittman

Massachusetts American Oystercatcher Working Group



Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Inc

Preserving the Island for everyone

- Management for almost 50% of MA American oystercatchers (87 pairs)
- Banding and resighting for MA population

Monomoy National
Wildlife Refuge



COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND
The City University of New York

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

- Experiment with different types of fencing
 - Electric fence
 - Tall fence
- Increased resighting effort
- Predator Management
- AMOY education poster

Monomoy National
Wildlife Refuge

