Alaska has more area covered by wetlands--about 170 million acres--than the other 49 States combined. More than 70,000 swans, 1 million geese, 12 million ducks, and 100 million shorebirds depend on Alaskan wetlands for resting, feeding, or nesting. Freshwater Alaskan wetlands include bogs, fens, tundra, marshes, and meadows; brackish and saltwater wetlands include flats, beaches, rocky shores, and salt marshes. Most of the State's freshwater wetlands are peatlands (wetlands that have organic soils), and cover as many as 110 million acres. Alaska's coastal wetlands are cooperatively protected and managed by local governments, rural regions, and the State.

The Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wetlands Inventory produced [ ] digital data for Alaska with [ ] contributions from [ ]. Using the FGDC Wetlands Data Standard, wetlands were classified by System, Subsystem, Class, water regime and special modifiers. Digital Wetlands Data are available for 21% of the State with additional nine percent covered on hard-copy maps. Eighty-five percent of the imagery data is over 20 years old with a small percentage of the imagery being fairly recent. Color infrared imagery was used to make almost all of the wetland maps with a few maps in black & white and natural color. Forty-three percent of the imagery used to make the wetland maps was at a scale of 1:65,000.