

## SWAP Focus Areas Notes from Sep 26 Conference Call

**Participants:** Bethany Atkins (IFW), Dan Coker (TNC), Andy Cutko (MNAP), Phillip DeMaynadier (IFW), Sarah Demers (IFW), Molly Docherty (MNAP), Bill Hancock (IFW), Bob Houston (USFWS), Don Katnik (IFW), Mark Stadler, Bob Stratton (IFW), Charlie Todd (IFW), Barbara Vickery (TNC)

### Scope of Work:

- There was general concurrence with the revised Scope of Work. We are still in the 'information gathering' mode and will need to shift soon to assessing the data to determine gaps and possible redundancies.
- Issues have arisen with the habitat classification system; there are differences between the GIS-mapped layer and the types noted in IFW's database. IFW is working to resolve the problem. It will likely not create major hurdles for the Focus Area work, as most analysis will be scaled up to the macrogroup level or higher.
- Bill Hancock will take the lead on overlaying Focus Areas with other priority area mapping efforts (e.g., Important bird areas) to determine if we've missed anything significant.

### Aquatic Issues:

- A 'Gap analysis' of four broad river/stream classes indicated that all four types are represented in similar proportions in Focus Areas compared to the state as a whole. Andy will follow up with TNC about possibly using a finer scale of TNC's river classification for gap analysis purposes, recognizing that representation of medium and larger rivers in Focus Areas is not as meaningful as smaller streams and headwaters.
- We should also do an analysis of Class AA waters from DEP to determine what is captured in Focus Areas.
- The pond and lake classification will not allow for a complete GIS 'gap analysis' because data for all ponds and lakes are not complete.
- We still need to figure out a way to engage the expertise of regional fisheries biologists.

### Coastal Issues:

- MDIFW, DMR, and the Maine Coastal Program have been working on marine SGCN and habitats, but there hasn't been much discussion of Focus Areas with DMR staff. (Subsequent to this Focus Area call, an initial meeting has been set up with DMR to discuss Focus Areas).

### OSI Grant:

- MDIFW, MNAP, TNC, and the Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Coalition (MtA2C) have received a positive reception from the Open Space Institute regarding a grant proposal to incorporate TNC climate change resilience information into Focus Area planning, both at the state scale and the scale of an individual Focus Area (Mt Agamenticus). If

received, this project will allow us to determine the strengths and limitations of working with the data at multiple scales, as well as provide practical climate change guidance to MtA2C stakeholders.

**Next Meeting Date:** October 20.