

January 9, 2015

## User's Guide to SGCN Reports

### Accessing the Reports

Summary reports for SGCN habitat and stressor associations are now available on the Maine Wildlife Action Plan website:


<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/MWAP2015.html>

On the right pane under 'Draft Documents' there is an index document that lists all SGCN by class:

*Index to SGCN Habitats and Stressors (Organized by Species)*

<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/SpeciesSummaryReportIndex.pdf>

You may just click the link and open the document in your browser window, but then you will have to scroll through the pages to find your species; the best way to use these documents:

- Right click on the link and save the PDF to your favorite location (e.g. desktop)
- Open the document from that location
- Use the bookmark ribbon  to view the taxonomy classification in a collapsible outline (this is in the left pane in Adobe Reader; if you do not see this pane, you can get to it from *View>Show/Hide>Navigation Panes>Bookmarks*)
- Click on your choice to zoom to that page
- Click the link to the report you wish to view

Please note that these reports are in *draft* format and are still undergoing proofing and editing.

Please direct questions and comments to [mainewildlifeactionplan@gmail.com](mailto:mainewildlifeactionplan@gmail.com).

More information about habitat reports can be found in the Habitat Reports User's Guide.

## Interpreting the Reports

Below are screenshots from the Northern Leopard Frog report with a brief description of each section and links to supporting documents.

### Section 1: Taxonomic Information

The screenshot shows a report header for the 'Maine 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Revision' dated January 06, 2015. The title is 'Northern Leopard Frog *Lithobates pipiens*' and it is designated as a 'Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)'. Taxonomic details are listed: Class: Amphibians *Amphibia*, Order: Frogs And Toads *Anura*, and Family: True Frogs *Ranidae*. A 'General comments' section states: 'There are >100 occurrences statewide, but concerns remain about declines in southern Maine and range-wide. 6 of 6 reviewers recommend SC listing.'

Description: This section lists taxonomic information for the species, Priority ranking (1-3), and general comments from species specialists.

### Section 2: SGCN Designation and Ranking

The screenshot displays the 'SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria' section. It lists several criteria with their status: 'Risk of Extirpation: NA', 'State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: Lithobates pipiens is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.', 'Recent Significant Declines: NA', 'Regional Endemic: NA', 'High Regional Conservation Priority: b. Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee: Risk: Yes, Data: Yes, Area: No, Spec: Yes, Warrant Listing: No, Total Categories with "Yes": 3; j. Northeast Partners In Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC): Regional Responsibility:< 50 % US Distribution, Concern: >= 50 % of States Listed in WAP', 'High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA', 'Understudied rare taxa: NA', and 'Historical: NA'.

Description: This section lists which criteria were met for designating this species as SGCN. The criteria for designating SGCN can be found here:

[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/Maine%20SWAP%20SGCN%20Criteria--DRAFT%2011\\_17\\_14-Final.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/Maine%20SWAP%20SGCN%20Criteria--DRAFT%2011_17_14-Final.pdf)

**Section 3: Habitats Assigned to SGCN**

<b>Habitats Associated with Northern Leopard Frog:</b>	
<b>Formation Name</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>
Macrogroup Name	Agricultural
Habitat System Name:	Pasture-Hay
<b>Formation Name</b>	<b>Boreal Wetland Forest</b>
Macrogroup Name	Boreal Forested Peatland
Habitat System Name:	Boreal-Laurentian Conifer Acidic Swamp
<b>Formation Name</b>	<b>Freshwater Marsh</b>
Macrogroup Name	Emergent Marsh
Habitat System Name:	Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh <b>**Primary Habitat**</b>
Macrogroup Name	Modified-Managed Marsh
Habitat System Name:	Modified-Managed Marsh
Macrogroup Name	Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh
Habitat System Name:	Laurentian-Acadian Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp <b>**Primary Habitat**</b>

Description: This section lists all habitats where a species is expected to occur in Maine.

More information on the classification system for terrestrial and freshwater species can be found here:

[http://rcngrants.org/sites/default/files/final\\_reports/RCN%202011-5%2C6%20final%20product%20NortheastHabitatGuides.pdf](http://rcngrants.org/sites/default/files/final_reports/RCN%202011-5%2C6%20final%20product%20NortheastHabitatGuides.pdf)

More information on the classification system used for marine species can be found here:

<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/Maine2015ActionPlanMarineHabitatClassification.pdf>

**Primary Habitat** refers to a habitat that is essential to one or more life history functions of an SGCN species, such that its presence and abundance directly determines the presence and abundance of the target species. Often, Primary Habitats are specialized, limiting, small patch features of the landscape rather than generalized, matrix-scale natural communities. Not all SGCN species have Primary Habitat relationships as defined here. Some examples of SGCN Primary Habitat include a) Caves and Mines (hibernacula for cave dwelling bats), b) Vernal Pools and Forested Swamps (Spotted Turtle and Blue-spotted Salamander), c) Atlantic White Cedar Swamps (Hessel’s Hairstreak), d) Sandy Beaches (Piping Plover), e) Grasslands (Upland Sandpiper nesting), f) Tundra ( Katahdin Arctic), g) Saltmarsh (Saltmarsh Sparrow), h) Open Marine Islands (rare seabirds), i) Headwater Streams (Roaring Brook Mayfly), and many more.

**Section 4: Stressors Assigned to SGCN**

<b>Threats Associated with Northern Leopard Frog:</b>	
<b>IUCN Level 1 Threat</b>	<b>Agriculture and Aquaculture</b>
IUCN Level 2 Threat:	Annual and Perennial Non-timber crops
<b>Severity:</b>	Moderate Severity
<b>Actionability:</b>	Actionable with difficulty
<b>Notes:</b>	wetland habitat loss and degradation of riparian habitat quality and function
<b>IUCN Level 1 Threat</b>	<b>Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases</b>
IUCN Level 2 Threat:	Problematic Species/Diseases of Unknown Origin
<b>Severity:</b>	Moderate Severity
<b>Actionability:</b>	Actionable with difficulty
<b>Notes:</b>	chytrid fungus documented in a high proportion of Maine specimens; implicated as a contributing factor in the global decline of amphibian populations of multiple taxa
IUCN Level 2 Threat:	Viral/Prion-induced Diseases
<b>Severity:</b>	Moderate Severity
<b>Actionability:</b>	Actionable with difficulty
<b>Notes:</b>	rana virus; implicated as a contributing factor in the global decline of amphibian populations of multiple taxa
<b>IUCN Level 1 Threat</b>	<b>Pollution</b>
IUCN Level 2 Threat:	Agricultural and Forestry Effluents
<b>Severity:</b>	Moderate Severity
<b>Actionability:</b>	Moderately actionable
<b>Notes:</b>	aquatic larvae are sensitive to pesticides and excessive nutrients

Description: This section lists the stressors affecting SGCN. More information about the IUCN classification system for stressors (IUCN uses the term ‘threats’) can be found here:

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes/threats-classification-scheme>

MDIFW has provided additional information about the severity and actionability of each stressor to help prioritize conservation actions. These terms are described below:

<b>Stressor Characteristic</b>	<b>Low Impact</b>	<b>Moderate Impact</b>	<b>High Impact</b>
<b>Severity</b>	<b>Slight Severity:</b> Degree of ecological change is minor	<b>Moderate Severity:</b> Degree of ecological change is substantial	<b>Severe:</b> Degree of ecological change is major
<b>Actionability</b> (Consider the likelihood of implementing Conservation Actions to begin reducing the impact of the Stressor within the next 10 years)	<b>Actionable with Difficulty:</b> Impacts of a Stressor can only be minimally reversed, prevented, or mitigated, and cost or logistics make solutions difficult to implement	<b>Moderately Actionable:</b> Impacts of a Stressor can be reversed, prevented, or mitigated, however solutions are only partially effective <u>or</u> may be difficult to implement	<b>Highly Actionable:</b> Impacts of the Stressor can be reversed, prevented, or mitigated with proven strategies, at relatively low costs and with few logistical difficulties