

**Mammal Break-Out Group**  
**Maine Wildlife Action Plan Meeting #1 (July 8, 2014)**

Facilitators: Charlie Todd (MDIFW) and Nate Webb (MDIFW)

Note taker: Nate Webb

Summary of SGCN Discussion

- Tree bats are conspicuously absent from the list. There are concerns over the impacts of wind power on these species. All of Maine's tree bats have been labelled Special Concern (traditionally implying potential ET candidate species) since 1994.
- Other potentially missing species – Rock Vole. Had been listed as Special Concern during the period 1996 – 2008. Some additional finds from ecoregional surveys by MDIFW. Distribution very similar to long-tailed shrew (high regional responsibility in Northeast) but not quite the same level of regional endemism. Uncertain about climate change vulnerability.
- For many small mammal species, there is inadequate information to determine whether they should be SGCN. Should 'data deficient' be a reason for inclusion?
- If a species isn't included on the list, how do we get funding and support to gather the data that might show they should be on the list? This is a Catch -22. Of course, all mammals are potentially eligible for PR funding that enables much of the wildlife program at MDIFW.
- Harvest data exist for many mammal species, which could be used as an additional criterion for potential SGCN reviews / listing. For example, muskrats appear to be declining across the east, but Maine doesn't collect harvest data for this species, so we don't know if there's a problem here.
- May want to include species that are declining nationally, but appear to be doing well in Maine (e.g. moose). We should gather information to understand why this pattern is happening, as it will help inform the conservation of the species across their range.
- Changing habitats pose a threat to many mammal species (examples = spruce budworm outbreaks & beech bark disease), although the impacts may not be apparent yet. Should this be a reason for inclusion?
- What about Marine Mammals? Are there any seal species that should be included? Some "accidental" species (like harp seals) generally not thought of as SGCNs analogous to stray migratory birds. Also, relatively new arrivals (like gray seals) may be somewhat rare but they are undergoing a general range expansion = also not a typical SGCN concern. Overall: need input from Maine DMR on marine mammals as there are some concerns for Harbor Porpoise in the northwest Atlantic.
- In terms of prioritizing Conservation Actions, we shouldn't focus on issues related to Climate Change. There is little if anything that Maine can do to resolve this threat, so we shouldn't waste our resources.

Participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
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Sarah Boyden	Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Sue-Ann Brann	MDIFW
Samantha Horn Olsen	Land Use Planning Commission
Zach Olson	University of New England
Kristin Peet	Penobscot Nation
Ryan Robicheau	MDIFW
Ken Scribner	Maine Bowhunters Association
Bob Stratton	MDIFW
Steve Wilcox	Maine Trappers Association
David Yates	Biodiversity Research Institute