

Revised Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN): *A Foundation of Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan*

*Maine State Wildlife Action Plan
Conservation Partner Meeting
September 30, 2014*

Phillip deMaynadier
MDIFW, Research and Assessment Section

and

Brad Allen, Erynn Call, Judy Camuso, Jason Czapiga, Danielle D'Auria, Merry Gallagher, Shawn Haskell, Tom Hodgman, Wally Jakubas, Don Katnik, Amanda Shearin, Mark Stadler, Kelsey Sullivan, Beth Swartz, Charlie Todd, Lindsay Tudor, Jen Vashon, Nate Webb, & Derek Yorks



STATE OF
MAINE
Department of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife



Overview



- Brief review of SGCN
- 2015 first draft criteria and SGCN
- Process for peer review and feedback received
- 2015 revised criteria and SGCN and taxa summaries
- Questions & Discussion



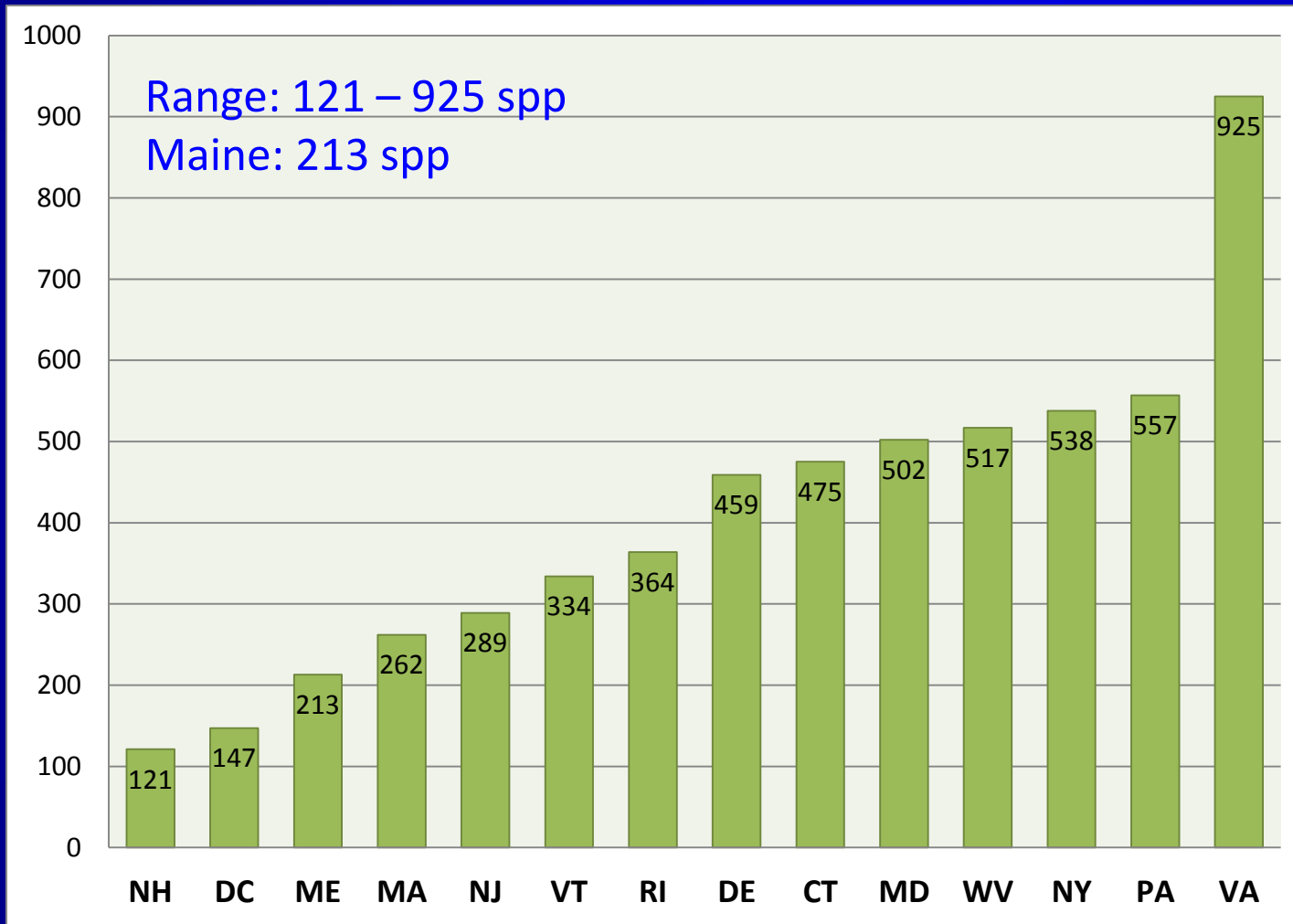
Federal Guidance: SGCN

(Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Act; Land & Water Conservation Fund)



- Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (Wildlife Action Plan)
- Focus on “At Risk” Species:
 - “...with appropriate consideration to all wildlife and priority for those species with the greatest conservation need as defined by the State or Territory’s program.”
 - “...species of wildlife, including low population and declining species as the State fish and wildlife department deems appropriate ...”
- Focus on Prioritization:
 - **SGCN**: Species of *Greatest* Conservation Need!
 - **Conservation Triage**: “Can not afford to waste time, money, and political capital”
(Rita Dixon, Idaho Fish & Wildlife)
 - **Limited SWG Funds**: In 2014 ME has 213 SGCN and \$477,284 OR $\\$2,300/\text{species}$

Total Wildlife SGCN by Northeast State (2005): 2,397 species



Taxa

Inverts: 1605

Fish: 299

Birds: 267

Mammals: 88

Amphibians: 73

Reptiles: 65

Plants: 572 (VT)

From: Whitlock A.L. and L. L. Carpenter, 2007. *A Comprehensive List of Species of Greatest Conservation Need from the Northeast SWAPs.*

Maine 2015 SGCN Conservation Criteria



Maine 2015 SGCN Conservation Criteria



1. **Risk of Extirpation:** Global (IUCN), Federal (USESA), and State (MESA)

Maine 2015 SGCN Conservation Criteria



1. **Risk of Extirpation:** Global (IUCN), Federal (USESA), and State (MESA)
2. **Recent Significant Declines:** Population or Range; <15 yrs, <30 yrs

Maine 2015 SGCN Conservation Criteria



1. **Risk of Extirpation:** Global (IUCN), Federal (USESA), and State (MESA)
2. **Recent Significant Declines:** Population or Range; <15 yrs, <30 yrs
3. **Regional Endemic :** >90% of range in northeastern North America

Maine 2015 SGCN Conservation Criteria



1. **Risk of Extirpation:** Global (IUCN), Federal (USESA), and State (MESA)
2. **Recent Significant Declines:** Population or Range; <15 yrs, <30 yrs
3. **Regional Endemic :** >90% of range in northeastern North America
4. **High Regional Conservation Priority:** 14 taxa-specific regional assessments

Maine 2015 SGCN Conservation Criteria



1. **Risk of Extirpation:** Global (IUCN), Federal (USESA), and State (MESA)
2. **Recent Significant Declines:** Population or Range; <15 yrs, <30 yrs
3. **Regional Endemic :** >90% of range in northeastern North America
4. **High Regional Conservation Priority:** 14 taxa-specific regional assessments
5. **Climate Change Risk:** High Vulnerability (e.g. Manomet Center Report 2013)

Maine 2015 SGCN Conservation Criteria



1. **Risk of Extirpation:** Global (IUCN), Federal (USESA), and State (MESA)
2. **Recent Significant Declines:** Population or Range; <15 yrs, <30 yrs
3. **Regional Endemic :** >90% of range in northeastern North America
4. **High Regional Conservation Priority:** 14 taxa-specific regional assessments
5. **Climate Change Risk:** High Vulnerability (e.g. Manomet Center Report 2013)
6. **Understudied Rare Taxa:** Few occurrences but poorly surveyed

Maine 2015 SGCN Conservation Criteria



1. **Risk of Extirpation:** Global (IUCN), Federal (USESA), and State (MESA)
2. **Recent Significant Declines:** Population or Range; <15 yrs, <30 yrs
3. **Regional Endemic :** >90% of range in northeastern North America
4. **High Regional Conservation Priority:** 14 taxa-specific regional assessments
5. **Climate Change Risk:** High Vulnerability (e.g. Manomet Center Report 2013)
6. **Understudied Rare Taxa:** Few occurrences but poorly surveyed
7. **Historical:** Reasonable probability of rediscovery with further survey

Maine 2015 SGCN Conservation Criteria



1. **Risk of Extirpation:** Global (IUCN), Federal (USESA), and State (MESA)
 2. **Recent Significant Declines:** Population or Range; <15 yrs, <30 yrs
 3. **Regional Endemic :** >90% of range in northeastern North America
 4. **High Regional Conservation Priority:** 14 taxa-specific regional assessments
-
- Priority 1 or 2*
- Priority 2*
5. **Climate Change Risk:** High Vulnerability (e.g. Manomet Center Report 2013)
 6. **Understudied Rare Taxa:** Few occurrences but poorly surveyed
 7. **Historical:** Reasonable probability of rediscovery with further survey

Maine 2015 SGCN Peer Review



1. Expert Taxa Teams (June 18th, 2014)

- i. Amphibians – 6
- ii. Reptiles – 6
- iii. Birds – 5
- iv. Mammals – 6
- v. Fish – 5
- vi. Invertebrates – 21
- vii. Marine -- 12
- viii. All Taxa -- 4

2. Conservation Partners (July 8th, 2014)

- i. Full Group (~50)
- ii. Taxa Break Out Groups

3. MDIFW Inter-Group Review (January-September, 2014)

SGCN Peer Feedback: *Species*



1. Species Comments Received

- i. Invertebrates: 7 experts / ~30 spp
- ii. Birds: 5 experts / ~28 spp
- iii. Fish: 4 experts / 9 spp
- iv. Amphibians & Reptiles: 3 experts / 6 spp
- v. Mammals: 2 experts / 5 spp
- vi. Marine: (12 experts invited)

2. MDIFW Species Review:

➤ All comments have been considered; responses posted to MDIFW SWAP web page (by Taxa)

➤ Examples:

a) “Why is Leach’s Storm Petrel not on the List?”

This species is on the revised list as a P3 now. The latest nesting population estimate is approximately 10,300 pairs on a total of 34 islands, most of which are in some form of conservation ownership (Brad Allen)

b) “Not sure about P2 status for sea turtles based on absence of breeding as that is true of many birds listed; leatherbacks may be more common than widely appreciated.”

We initially lowered all sea turtles in the GOM from P1 to P2 because of non breeding status and poor documentation records. In light of comments by DMR and data in a recent report prepared by NOA and USFWS detailing the risk posed to Leatherbacks by entanglement in commercial fishing gear we agree that P1 status is appropriate for this species (Derek Yorks)

SGCN Peer Feedback: *Conservation Criteria*



SGCN Peer Feedback: *Conservation Criteria*



- 1) Greater prioritization within SGCN (especially among P2)
- 2) Consider adding the State Special Concern list as a criterion
- 3) Consider a higher bar for climate change criterion
- 4) Combine regional responsibility with other vulnerabilities
- 5) Revisit rationale for minimum species residency rule (50 & 25 yrs)
- 6) Give greater consideration to marine taxa
- 7) Give more consideration to data deficient taxa
- 8) Consider habitat vulnerability as a separate driver for SGCN selection
- 9) Consider differentiating core versus edge of range vulnerabilities



SGCN Peer Feedback: *Revised* Conservation Criteria



- 1) ***Greater prioritization within SGCN (especially among P2)***
- 2) ***Consider adding the State Special Concern list as a criterion***
- 3) ***Consider a higher bar for climate change criterion***
- 4) ***Combine regional responsibility with other vulnerabilities***
- 5) ***Revisit rationale for minimum species residency rule (50 & 25 yrs)***
- 6) ***Give greater consideration to marine taxa***
- 7) ***Give more consideration to data deficient taxa***
- 8) **Consider habitat vulnerability as a separate driver for SGCN selection**
- 9) **Consider differentiating core versus edge of range vulnerabilities**



Revised SGCN Conservation Criteria: *Take 2*



1. Added Priority 3 SGCN (P1-P2-P3)
 - 1) *Greater prioritization within SGCN (especially among P2)*

2. Required two or more vulnerability factors for Priority 2
 - 3) *Consider a higher bar for climate change criterion*
 - 4) *Combine regional responsibility with other vulnerability criteria*

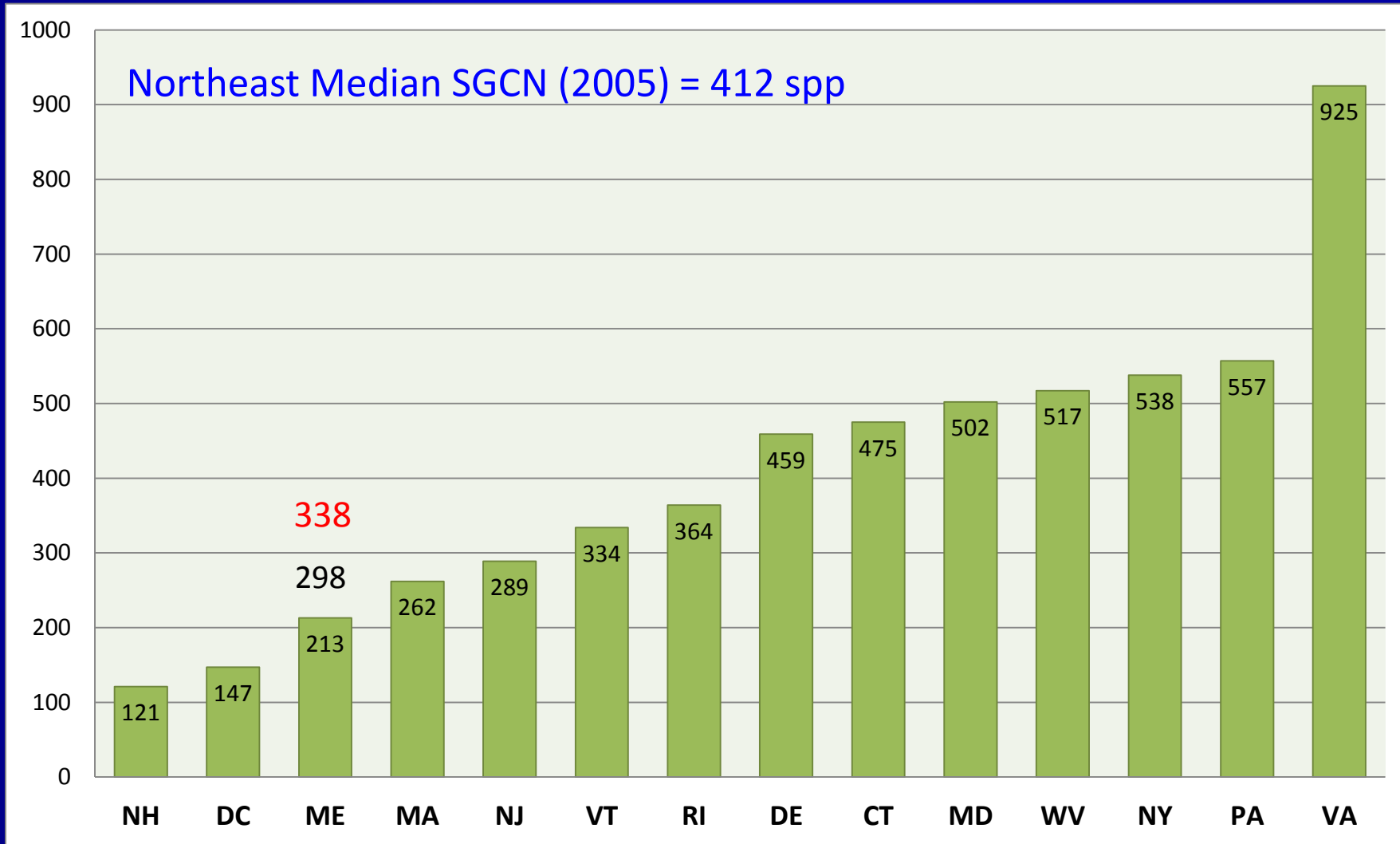
3. Added State Special Concern list as a new criteria for P2-P3
 - 2) *Consider adding the State Special Concern list as a qualifying factor*
 - 7) *Give more consideration to data deficient taxa*

4. Lowered residency threshold for P3 species to >10 yrs
 - 5) *Revisit rationale for minimum species residency rule (50 & 25 yrs)*

5. Engaged/Solicited input from DMR and other marine experts
 - 6) *Give greater consideration to marine taxa*



Total Wildlife SGCN by Northeast State (2005): 2,397 species



From: Whitlock A.L. and L. L. Carpenter, 2007. *A Comprehensive List of Species of Greatest Conservation Need from the Northeast SWAPs.*



Revised Total Maine Draft SGCN (2015)

Draft Total: 298 spp

P1 = 45 spp

P2 = 253 spp

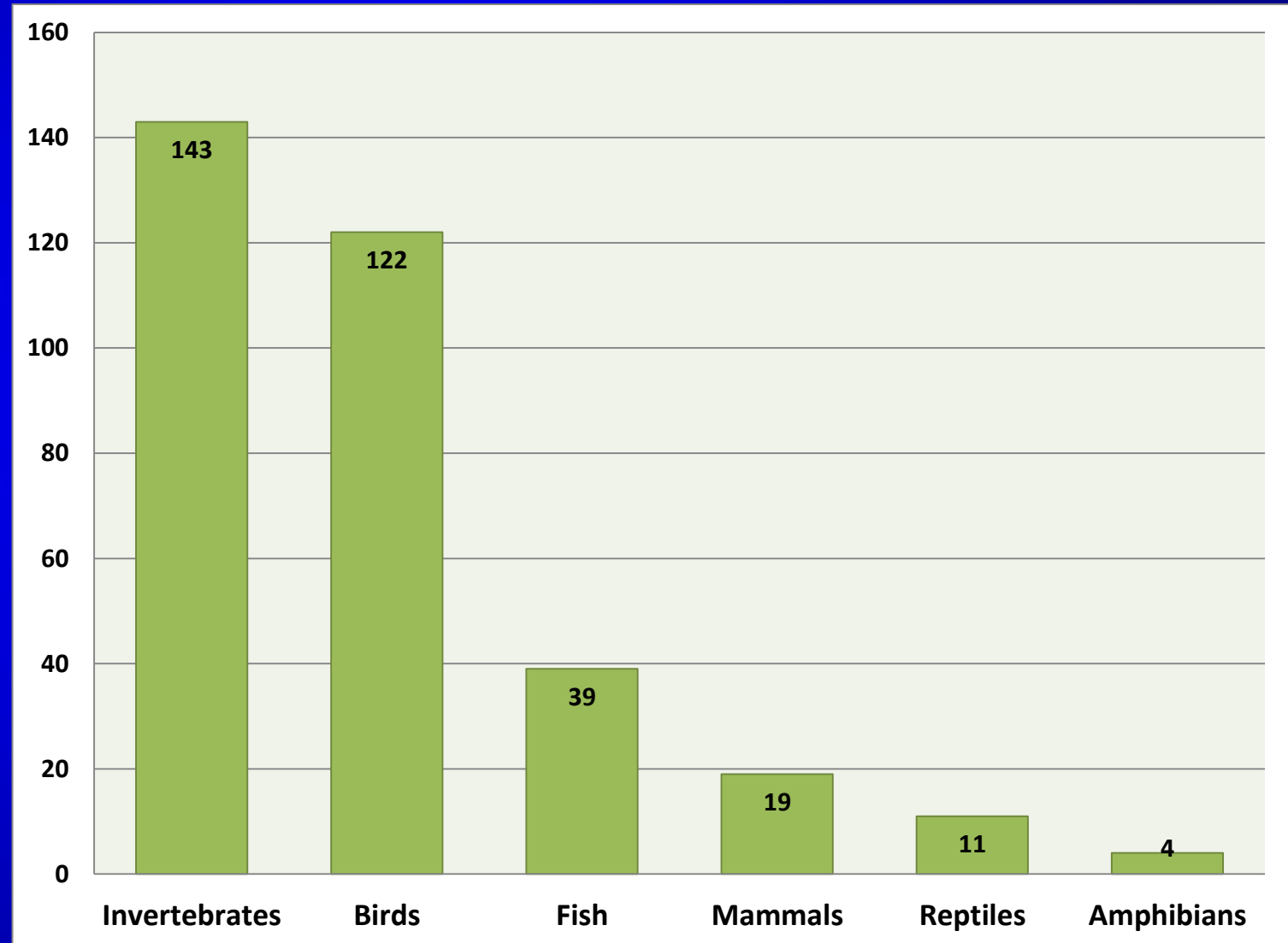


New Total: ~338 spp

P1 = 54 spp

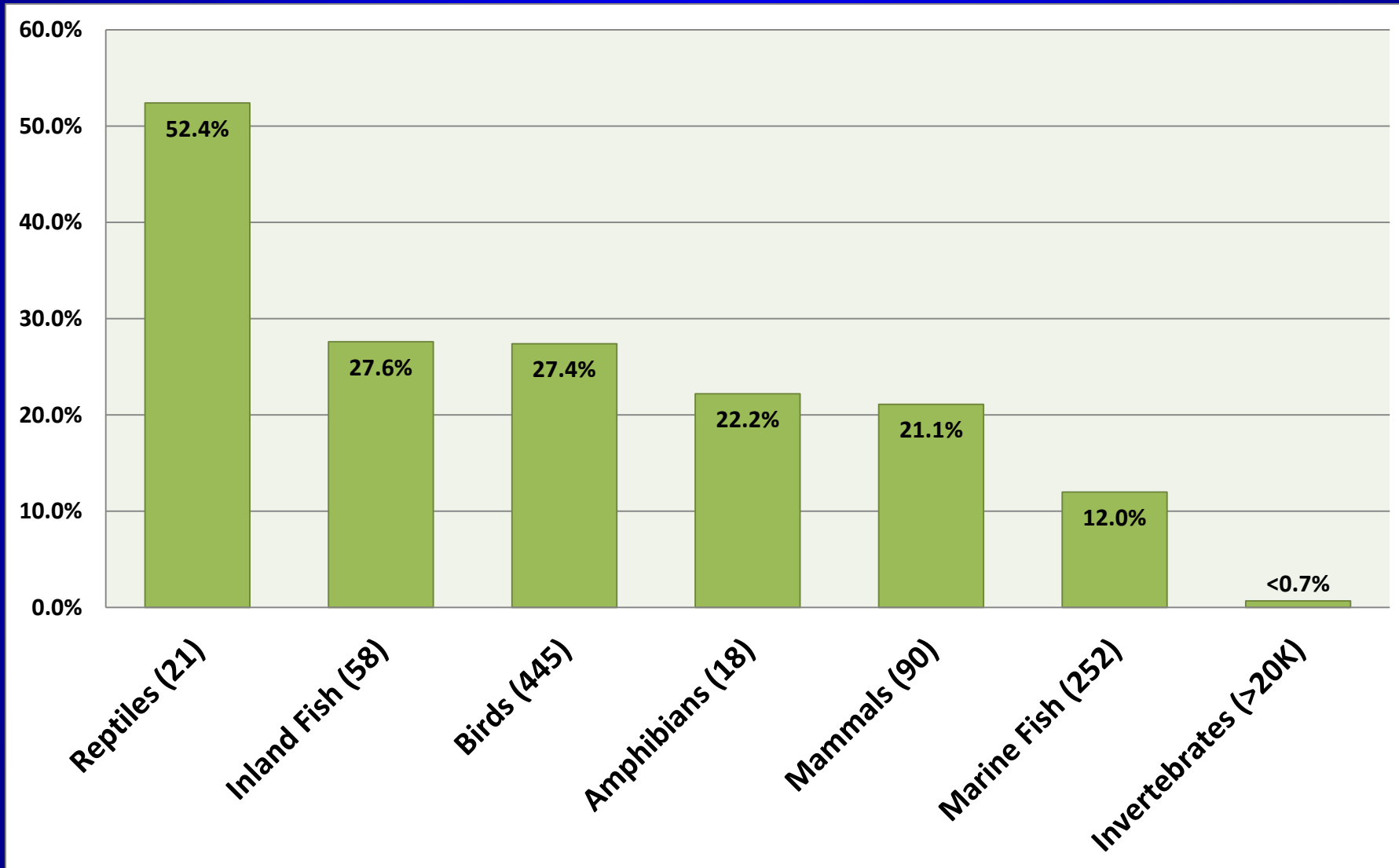
P2 = 116 spp

P3 = 168 spp



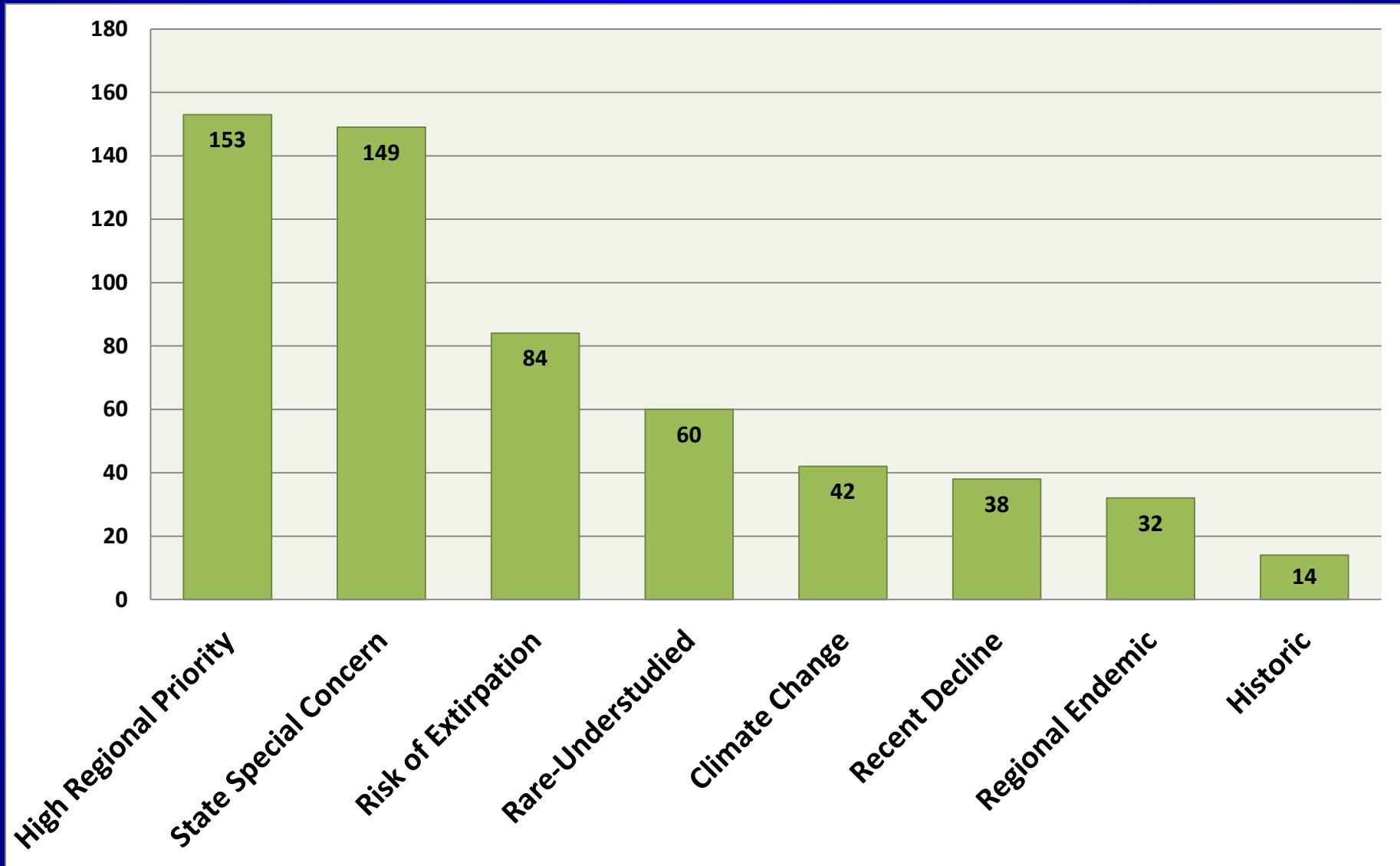


Percentage Maine Wildlife Draft SGCN (2015) by Taxa





Conservation Criteria Associated with 2015 Maine SGCN



Maine Revised 2015 SGCN Highlights



- ✓ 338 SGCN further prioritized: P1 (16%), P2 (34%), and P3 (50%)
- ✓ Northeastern State median total SGCN is 412 species
- ✓ Built upon 8 science-based conservation criteria
- ✓ 5 of 8 criteria informed by ≥ 2 scales: global, regional, and state
- ✓ SGCN also informed by professional judgment – e.g., 20 spp ↓ and 24 spp ↑
- ✓ Peer review by 21 species experts and 50 conservation partners
- ✓ The SGCN list is the first of 8 required SWAP Elements!



Questions or Comments?

SWAP Feedback:
mainewildlifeactionplan@gmail.com

