

Haematopus palliatus* (American Oystercatcher)*Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** Aves (Birds)**Order:** Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)**Family:** Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)**General comments:**

First nesting record in Maine - 1994. 4 - 8 breeding pairs in Maine, range expansion, Northern Atlantic population 11,000 and considered stable. Listed as Critical risk category because of high vulnerability to climate change - Gilbratthe et al. 2014.

Species Conservation Range Maps for American Oystercatcher:Town Map: [Haematopus palliatus_Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Haematopus palliatus_HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation: NA****State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:***Haematopus palliatus* is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.**Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic: NA****High Regional Conservation Priority:****United States Shorebird Conservation Plan:**

Species of High Concern

North Atlantic Regional Shorebird Plan:

Highly Imperiled

United States Birds of Conservation Concern:

Bird of Conservation Concern in Bird Conservation Regions 14 and/or 30: Yes

High Climate Change Vulnerability:

Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: High, Reviewers: Decided in Workshop (W)

Understudied rare taxa: NA**Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Habitats Assigned to American Oystercatcher:****Formation Name** Cliff & Rock

Macrogroup Name Rocky Coast

Formation Name Intertidal

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Bedrock

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Gravel Shore

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Mollusc Reefs

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Mudflat

Stressors Assigned to American Oystercatcher:

No Stressors Currently Assigned to American Oystercatcher or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to American Oystercatcher:

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No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to American Oystercatcher or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Conservation Actions Associated with the Shorebirds Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Identify and map priority feeding and roosting areas including offshore habitats, and implement protection initiatives. Enter data in IFW ETSC database.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge, Industrial and Military Effluents, Housing and Urban Areas, Tourism and Recreational Areas, Commercial and Industrial Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Place symbolic stake and twine fencing around important beach roosting areas with signage to identify roosting areas.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities, Tourism and Recreational Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Work with the Maine Department of Marine Resources to conduct research to determine the impact of macroalgae harvest on wintering waterfowl			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Conservation Action	Category: Public Outreach	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Provide outreach to pet owners, beachgoers, kayakers, beach managers, and landowners to raise public awareness on shorebirds and on the impacts of disturbance from recreational activities in coastal areas.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
Use voluntary agreements, conservation easements, conservation tax abatements and incentives to protect important habitats			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Work and Other Activities, Recreational Activities, Housing and Urban Areas, Commercial and Industrial Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
To determine population status continue monitoring program for SGCN shorebird species at high priority migration sites coastwide. Continue to coordinate with ISS, PRISM, Atlantic Flyway ESMP programs.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Identify prey resources in significant staging areas to determine potential limiting factors and optimal management techniques to promote these resources.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Determine length of stay at stopover areas, site fidelity, local movements and premigration condition to determine if coastal habitats are meeting shorebird requirements for successful migration.			

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Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
Determine limiting factors for SGCN shorebird species on breeding, migratory, or wintering areas.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Gain a better understanding of the extent and impacts of algae harvesting on staging and wintering shorebirds. Conduct longterm monitoring of ecosystem-wide impacts of cutting algae to determine potential impacts to shorebird habitats and invertebrate pr			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.