

Ambystoma laterale* (Blue-spotted Salamander)*Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)**Class: *Amphibia* (Amphibians)Order: *Caudata* (Salamanders)Family: *Ambystomatidae* (Mole Salamanders)**General comments:**

Further information needed on hybrid genotype and status/distribution of pure laterale forms; the latter are rare in New England and NY, becoming more common to the North; true rarity of laterale masked by cryptic polyploidy complex. Even polyploid hybrids are among the least common pool-breeding spp

Species Conservation Range Maps for Blue-spotted Salamander:Town Map: [Ambystoma laterale Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Ambystoma laterale_HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation: NA****State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:***Ambystoma laterale* is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.**Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic: NA****High Regional Conservation Priority:****Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:**

Risk: No, Data: Yes, Area: No, Spec: Yes, Warrant Listing: No, Total Categories with "Yes": 2

Northeast Partners In Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC):

Regional Responsibility:< 50 % US Distribution, Concern: >= 75% of States Listed in WAP

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA**Understudied rare taxa: NA****Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Habitats Assigned to Blue-spotted Salamander:****Formation Name Boreal Upland Forest**

Macrogroup Name Boreal Upland Forest

Habitat System Name: Acadian Low Elevation Spruce-Fir-Hardwood Forest

Habitat System Name: Acadian Sub-boreal Spruce Flat

Formation Name Boreal Wetland Forest

Macrogroup Name Boreal Forested Peatland

Habitat System Name: Boreal-Laurentian Conifer Acidic Swamp

Formation Name Freshwater Aquatic

Macrogroup Name Lakes and Ponds

Habitat System Name: Dystrophic Notes: Only fishless ponds

Habitat System Name: Oligotrophic Notes: Only fishless ponds

Habitat System Name: Vernal Pool ****Primary Habitat****

Macrogroup Name Rivers and Streams

Habitat System Name: Headwaters and Creeks Notes: Slow fishless headwaters and seeps

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Macrogroup Name Emergent Marsh

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: *especially fishless sections*

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 ****Primary Habitat******Formation Name Grassland & Shrubland**

Macrogroup Name Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland

Habitat System Name: Powerline Right-of-Way

Formation Name Northeastern Upland Forest

Macrogroup Name Central Oak-Pine

Habitat System Name: Central Appalachian Dry Oak-Pine Forest

Habitat System Name: North Atlantic Coastal Plain Hardwood Forest

Macrogroup Name Exotic Upland Forest

Habitat System Name: Introduced Upland Vegetation - Tree

Macrogroup Name Northern Hardwood & Conifer

Habitat System Name: Appalachian (Hemlock)-Northern Hardwood Forest

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Northern Hardwoods Forest

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Pine-Hemlock-Hardwood Forest

Macrogroup Name Plantation and Ruderal Forest

Habitat System Name: Ruderal Forest - Northern and Central Hardwood and Conifer

Formation Name Northeastern Wetland Forest

Macrogroup Name Coastal Plain Peat Swamp

Habitat System Name: North Atlantic Coastal Plain Basin Peat Swamp

Macrogroup Name Northeastern Floodplain Forest

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Floodplain Systems

Macrogroup Name Northern Swamp

Habitat System Name: Acadian-Appalachian Conifer Seepage Forest

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Alkaline Conifer-Hardwood Swamp

Habitat System Name: North-Central Interior and Appalachian Rich Swamp

Habitat System Name: Northern Appalachian-Acadian Conifer-Hardwood Acidic Swamp ****Primary Habitat******Formation Name Peatland**

Macrogroup Name Northern Peatland & Fens

Habitat System Name: Northern Peatland Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Stressors Assigned to Blue-spotted Salamander:

Ambystoma laterale (Blue-spotted Salamander)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Amphibia* (Amphibians)

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Family: *Ambystomatidae* (Mole Salamanders)

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Highly actionable

Notes: Poor understanding of the distribution and status of cryptic diploid (pure *Ambystoma laterale*) populations

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Residential and Commercial Development

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Housing and Urban Areas

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Loss and degradation of vernal pools and pocket swamps and the surrounding critical terrestrial habitat, especially in southern and central ME

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Biological Resource Use

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Logging and Wood Harvesting

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Intensive forestry in close proximity to high value breeding pools and swamps can degrade habitat quality; ecological forestry is compatible with species conservation

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Residential and Commercial Development

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Commercial and Industrial Areas

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Loss and degradation of vernal pools and pocket swamps and the surrounding critical terrestrial habitat, especially in southern and central ME

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Transportation and Service Corridors

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Roads and Railroads

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Road kill near high value vernal pools and swamps

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Utility and Service Lines

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Loss of forest cover and degradation of wetland habitat quality

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Climate change; potential impacts predicted for long-hydroperiod vernal pools and swamps

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Blue-spotted Salamander:

**Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

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Conservation Action **Category:** Survey and Monitoring **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** on-going
Pure diploid (and non-hybrid) populations of *Ambystoma laterale* are believed to be rare in Maine and throughout their range. Systematic tissue sampling is needed to document the extent and distribution of all genotypes within the species complex, with

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action **Category:** Research **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** on-going
Develop an improved understanding of habitat and movement ecology to help develop Best Management Practices and other targeted species conservation actions

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action **Category:** Policy **Biological Priority:** moderate **Type:** on-going
Cooperate with University of Maine and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to research and implement a voluntary Special Area Management Program (SAMP) by towns that want greater flexibility in the implementation of

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Housing and Urban Areas

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

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.