

## *Sterna dougallii* (Roseate Tern)

### Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

**Class:** Aves (Birds)  
**Order:** Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)  
**Family:** Laridae (Gulls, Jaegers, Kittiwakes, Skimmers, Skuas, And Terns)

#### General comments:

184 pairs at 4 sites in 2009; federal endangered species

#### Species Conservation Range Maps for Roseate Tern:

Town Map: [Sterna dougallii\\_Towns.pdf](#)  
 Subwatershed Map: [Sterna dougallii\\_HUC12.pdf](#)

#### SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

**Risk of Extirpation:**

Maine Status: Endangered  
 Federal Status: Endangered

**State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA**

**Recent Significant Declines: NA**

**Regional Endemic: NA**

**High Regional Conservation Priority:**

Northeast Regional Synthesis (RSGCN):  
 Responsibility: High, Concern: Very High  
 North American Waterbird Conservation Plan:  
 High Concern

**High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA**

**Understudied rare taxa: NA**

**Historical: NA**

**Culturally Significant: NA**

#### Habitats Assigned to Roseate Tern:

**Formation Name**      **Cliff & Rock**

Macrogroup Name      Rocky Coast

Habitat System Name: Acadian-North Atlantic Rocky Coast      **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***

**Formation Name**      **Subtidal**

Macrogroup Name      Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)

Habitat System Name: Nearshore

Habitat System Name: Offshore

Habitat System Name: Pelagic (Water Column) Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Macrogroup Name      Subtidal Sand Bottom

Habitat System Name: Sand Bottom Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

#### Stressors Assigned to Roseate Tern:

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

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#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Problematic Native Species-Diseases

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

**Notes:** Egg and chick depredation by large gulls

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Biological Resource Use

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

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

**Notes:** Prey availability issues as many important foods are also commercially valuable and overfishing of these stocks becomes an issue; and disturbance associated with these fishing activities

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

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

**Notes:** Invasive plants impacting nesting habitat

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Pollution

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Industrial and Military Effluents

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

**Notes:** Oil spills around significant nesting areas have been shown to be an imminent threat to Roseate Tern breeding populations as was experienced in Massachusetts

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Residential and Commercial Development

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Housing and Urban Areas

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

**Notes:** Lack of Knowledge

#### 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:** Sea level rise has been implicated as a significant threat as most of the islands that provide nesting space for Roseate Terns are very low sites, but threat is most likely a very long term issue

### Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Roseate Tern:

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

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Species Management	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> on-going
Increase breeding population distribution and productivity			

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Problematic Native Species-Diseases

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

### Conservation Actions Associated with the Island Nesting Seabirds Guild:

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<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Survey and Monitoring	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> on-going
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Continue seabird restoration activities at historic nesting sites using social attraction, vegetation management, and predator control

#### **Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Research	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> on-going
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Determine which factors influence breeding success and productivity

#### **Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Research	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> new
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Determine the association with commercial fisheries and climate-induced changes to food availability

#### **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.*