

Clemmys guttata (Spotted Turtle)

Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Reptilia* (Reptiles)

Order: *Testudines* (Turtles And Tortoises)

Family: *Emydidae* (Pond Turtles)

General comments:

~120% increase in # of wetlands (~100 to ~220) over previous period; total population=5-6,000 turtles? new SWH and Site Law safety net and SVP protection

Species Conservation Range Maps for Spotted Turtle:

Town Map: [Clemmys guttata_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Clemmys guttata_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

Maine Status: **Threatened**

IUCN Red List Status: **Endangered**

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:

Risk: No, Data: Yes, Area: Yes, Spec: Yes, Warrant Listing: No, Total Categories with "Yes": 3

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 Spotted Turtle:

Formation Name Agricultural

Macrogroup Name Agricultural

Habitat System Name: Pasture-Hay **Notes:** *secondary*

Formation Name Developed

Macrogroup Name Maintained Grasses and Mixed Cover

Habitat System Name: Urban & Recreational Grasses **Notes:** *secondary*

Formation Name Freshwater Aquatic

Macrogroup Name Lakes and Ponds

Habitat System Name: Dystrophic **Notes:** *secondary but may be important where water is very shallow and there is abundant emergent herbaceous and/or woody vegetation*

Habitat System Name: Eutrophic **Notes:** *secondary but may be important where water is very shallow and there is abundant emergent herbaceous and/or woody vegetation*

Habitat System Name: Mesotrophic or Intermediate **Notes:** *secondary*

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

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Macrogroup Name Rivers and Streams

Habitat System Name: Headwaters and Creeks ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: *primary where water is very shallow, slow-moving, and there is abundant emergent herbaceous and/or woody vegetation***Formation Name Freshwater Marsh**

Macrogroup Name Coastal Plain Pond

Habitat System Name: Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Pond Notes: *secondary but may be important where water is very shallow and there is abundant emergent herbaceous and/or woody vegetation*

Macrogroup Name Emergent Marsh

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: *primary*

Macrogroup Name Modified-Managed Marsh

Habitat System Name: Modified-Managed Marsh Notes: *secondary but may be important where water is very shallow and there is abundant emergent herbaceous and/or woody vegetation*

Macrogroup Name Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh

Habitat System Name: Introduced Wetland and Riparian Vegetation ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: *primary*Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: *primary***Formation Name Grassland & Shrubland**

Macrogroup Name Outcrop & Summit Scrub

Habitat System Name: Northern Appalachian-Acadian Rocky Heath Outcrop Notes: *secondary as nesting habitat*

Macrogroup Name Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland

Habitat System Name: Introduced Shrubland Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: Powerline Right-of-Way Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: Ruderal Upland - Old Field Notes: *secondary***Formation Name Northeastern Upland Forest**

Macrogroup Name Central Oak-Pine

Habitat System Name: Central Appalachian Dry Oak-Pine Forest Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: Central Appalachian Pine-Oak Rocky Woodland Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: North Atlantic Coastal Plain Hardwood Forest Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: North Atlantic Coastal Plain Maritime Forest Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: Northeastern Interior Pine Barrens Notes: *secondary*

Macrogroup Name Exotic Upland Forest

Habitat System Name: Introduced Upland Vegetation - Tree Notes: *secondary*

Macrogroup Name Northern Hardwood & Conifer

Habitat System Name: Appalachian (Hemlock)-Northern Hardwood Forest Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Northern Hardwoods Forest Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Pine-Hemlock-Hardwood Forest Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: Northeastern Coastal and Interior Pine-Oak Forest Notes: *secondary*

Macrogroup Name Plantation and Ruderal Forest

Habitat System Name: Managed Tree Plantation Notes: *secondary*Habitat System Name: Ruderal Forest - Northern and Central Hardwood and Conifer Notes: *secondary*

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Formation Name	Northeastern Wetland Forest		
Macrogroup Name	Central Hardwood Swamp		
Habitat System Name:	North-Central Interior Wet Flatwoods	Notes: <i>secondary</i>	
Macrogroup Name	Northern Swamp		
Habitat System Name:	Laurentian-Acadian Alkaline Conifer-Hardwood Swamp	**Primary Habitat**	Notes: <i>primary</i>
Habitat System Name:	North-Central Appalachian Acidic Swamp	**Primary Habitat**	Notes: <i>primary</i>
Habitat System Name:	North-Central Interior and Appalachian Rich Swamp	**Primary Habitat**	Notes: <i>primary</i>

Formation Name	Peatland		
Macrogroup Name	Northern Peatland & Fens		
Habitat System Name:	North-Central Interior and Appalachian Acidic Peatland	**Primary Habitat**	Notes: <i>primary</i>

Stressors Assigned to Spotted Turtle:

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 **Biological Resource Use**

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Moderately actionable
Notes: Poaching and incidental collection

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Logging and Wood Harvesting

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Highly actionable
Notes: Forestry operations could negatively effect populations by direct mortality from skidders etc during spring/summer or by altering forested wetland habitat

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

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Commercial and Industrial Areas

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Moderately actionable
Notes: Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation from development and increased human activity

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Housing and Urban Areas

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Moderately actionable
Notes: Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation from development and increased human activity

IUCN Level 1 Threat **Transportation and Service Corridors**

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Roads and Railroads

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Moderately actionable
Notes: Mortality from vehicle collisions on roads is major threat and roads also contribute to the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of habitat

IUCN Level 1 Threat **Energy Production and Mining**

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Mining and Quarrying

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable
Notes: Development and operation of quarries and gravel can contribute to habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation

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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 wetland plants that dominate or form monocultures

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Spotted Turtle:

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

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Continue the cautionary road crossing signage program, and expand the number of locations with signs as additional road crossing hotspots are identified.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Roads and Railroads

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: new
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Identify potential road crossing hotspots using GIS and monitor mortality at those locations with road surveys to prioritize the most problematic road segments for mitigation measures such as cautionary signage, exclusionary fencing

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Roads and Railroads

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: new
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Install road crossing structures consisting of under-road passageways and guidance fencing where high-mortality road segments bisect habitat that hosts high priority populations

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Roads and Railroads

Conservation Action	Category: Public Outreach	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Continue to build public awareness of risks posed by roadways with seasonally appropriate press release that also warns motorists to be on the lookout for turtles during spring/early summer.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Roads and Railroads

Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
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Research and coordinate the development of a publically available Potential Vernal Pool map product that covers the entire State, or at least all organized townships

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Commercial and Industrial Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Deter casual collection by educating the public on the importance of leaving turtles where they find them

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

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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

Commercial and Industrial 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.