



# MAINE'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

## Element 7: Coordination with Partners & Element 8: Public Participation

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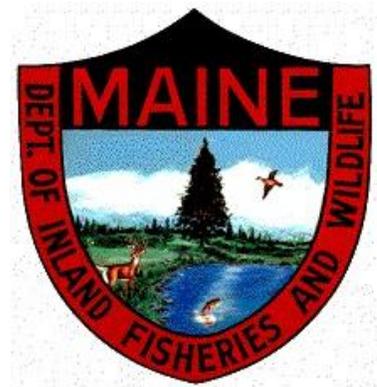
Prepared by

**Maine Department of Inland  
Fisheries and Wildlife**

In collaboration with

**Maine's Conservation Partners**

**September 2015**



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## Element 7: Coordination with Partners

## Element 8: Public Participation

7/8.0 Abstract.....	1
7/8.1 Introduction .....	1
7/8.1.1 Significant Differences from Maine's 2005 Plan .....	2
7/8.2 Action Plan Coordination Team / Action Plan Steering committee.....	3
7/8.2.1 Action Plan Coordination Team.....	3
7/8.2.2 Action Plan Steering Committee .....	4
7/8.2.3 SWAP Review and Update Charter.....	5
7/8.3 Coordination with Conservation Partners .....	5
7/8.3.1 Coordination with Federal Partners .....	9
7/8.3.2 Coordination with State Partners.....	9
7/8.3.3 Coordination with Tribal Partners .....	9
7/8.3.4 Coordination with Public and Local Partners, Including Non-governmental Organizations .....	9
7/8.4 Public Engagement .....	27
7/8.4.1 Public Presentations .....	27
7/8.4.2 Brochure .....	27
7/8.4.3 Peer Review .....	27
7/8.4.4 Maine Action Plan Webpage .....	28
7/8.4.5 Email Correspondence.....	28
7/8.4.6 30-Day Comment Period.....	28
7/8.5 Public and Partner Engagement During Plan Implementations .....	37
7/8.6 Literature Cited and References.....	40
7/8.7 Appendices .....	41

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**LIST OF TABLES**

---

Table 7/8-1. Comparison of Conservation Partner Engagement 2005 and 2015. ....3

Table 7/8-2. Conservation Partners invited to participate in the preparation of Maine’s 2015 SWAP. ....6

Table 7/8-3. Extent of coordination with Federal Partners. .... 10

Table 7/8-4. Extent of coordination with State Partners. .... 13

Table 7/8-5. Extent of coordination with Tribal Partners. .... 16

Table 7/8-6. Extent of coordination with Public and Local Partners. .... 18

Table 7/8-7. Press Releases, Articles, and Social Media. ....27

Table 7/8-8. Summary of all comments and inquiries received. ....29

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**LIST OF APPENDICES**

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Appendix 7/8-1. Operational Charter. ....41

Appendix 7/8-2. Agendas – Conservation Partner Meetings. ....46

Appendix 7/8-3. Frequently Asked Questions about Maine’s 2015 Wildlife Action Plan. ....58

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**KEY TO ACRONYMS**

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BMP	Best Management Practices
CMP	Conservation Measures Partnership
GIS	Geographic Information System
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MDIFW	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
MDMR	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
MFS	Maine Forest Service
MNAP	Maine Natural Areas Program
RFP	Request for Proposals
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SWAP	State Wildlife Action Plan
SWG	State Wildlife Grants
SWOAM	Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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## 7/8.0 ABSTRACT

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Maine has a long history of successful collaboration among conservation partners, conducting comprehensive wildlife planning and public involvement for 50 years. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) began assembling an Action Plan Coordination Team in January 2014. This planning team developed the strategies necessary to achieve the eight required elements of the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). In September 2014, the Coordination Team established an Action Plan Steering Committee to guide the overall development of the SWAP. The Steering Committee represented the broader conservation partner group by providing regular review and advice concerning the activities and proposed strategies of the Coordination Team. The Coordination Team and the Steering Committee began preparing an Operational Charter early in the update to guide the development of the Action Plan; the Steering Committee officially adopted the charter in November 2014. The Coordination Team invited 158 conservation partners to participate in the preparation of Maine's 2015 Action Plan, representing 102 unique organizations and key members of the conservation public. From July 2014 – June 2015 the partners attended five, day-long 'conservation partner' meetings at which they collaboratively developed Elements 1-5 of the 2015 Action Plan.

MDIFW both informed the public of its intent to revise the Action Plan and encouraged public participation. It established a Public Outreach Subcommittee to guide its public participation efforts. The Subcommittee identified methods to engage the public and to solicit its comment. The Coordination Team and Steering Committee implemented these methods in a manner that made effective use of agency resources and ensured an appropriate level of public participation.

The success of Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan depends on continued partner and public engagement during plan implementation. To guide implementation of the Action Plan and to encourage continued public involvement, MDIFW and the Steering Committee identified 11 Programmatic Conservation Actions.

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## 7/8.1 INTRODUCTION

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Element 7 (Coordination with Partners) requires MDIFW to coordinate, to the extent feasible, with federal, state, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant areas of land or water within the state, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) during development, implementation, review, and revision of Maine's Action Plan. Element 8 (Public Participation) requires MDIFW to provide an opportunity for public participation in the development of the Plan (AFWA 2012).

Developing the partnerships identified in Elements 7 and 8 early in the Plan revision fostered partner ownership and support, maintained positive and collaborative relationships, and ensured that the Action Plan is a plan for all of Maine, not merely MDIFW.



September 2015 Conservation Partner meeting. © Mark Stadler

MDIFW prepared the Plan in close cooperation with other natural resource agencies and organizations and built public and political support for the Action Plan. Maine's Action Plan reflects the input and values of Maine's diverse suite of conservation partners (federal, state, and local agencies, Indian tribes, academia, private conservation organizations, and the public). MDIFW achieved support for the Plan by ensuring that its update was transparent and open to public input. Successfully implementing many of the Plan's recommended conservation actions will require that the Action Plan is accomplished through coordinated actions undertaken in partnership. Complementary roles and actions with partners elevate conservation actions to broader levels, leverage scarce dollars, and avoid duplication of effort. To guide the implementation of the Plan and to encourage continued public involvement, MDIFW and the Steering Committee identified 11 Programmatic Actions (Section 7/8.5).

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### 7/8.1.1 SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES FROM MAINE'S 2005 PLAN

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MDIFW has conducted comprehensive wildlife planning and public involvement for 50 years, and has a long history of successful collaboration among conservation partners and the public. Most notable is MDIFW's species planning process (Chapters 6, 7, MDIFW 2005). MDIFW invoked this same historical practice in developing Maine's 2005 Action Plan (MDIFW 2005), and amplified upon this collaborative spirit as it prepared Maine's 2015 Plan. MDIFW invited 158 conservation partners to participate, more than double the 64 partners involved in 2005 (Table 7/8-1). In 2015, conservation partners represented 102 unique agencies and organizations, again doubling the 51 entities that prepared the 2005 Plan (Tables 7/8-1 and 7/8-2). During 2005, conservation partners participated in three day-long meetings to address the eight required elements of the Action Plan. In 2015, conservation partners attended fully five day-long meetings (Table 7/8-1).

*“MDIFW has conducted comprehensive wildlife planning and public involvement for 50 years, and has a long history of successful collaboration among conservation partners and the public.”*

MDIFW established an Action Plan Steering Committee to guide the overall development of the 2015 Plan (Section 7/8.2.2). The Steering Committee represented the broader conservation partner group and provided regular and timely review and advice concerning MDIFW's proposed strategies for accomplishing the 2015 revision; it also monitored Maine's progress in successfully accomplishing the larger, overall aspects of the Plan (AFWA 2012).

The Best Practices for State Wildlife Actions Plans (AFWA 2012) recommends that each state prepare a charter to formalize how conservation partners and fish and wildlife agencies will collaboratively develop their Action Plan. MDIFW and the Steering Committee prepared and adopted Maine's Action Plan Operational Charter (Section 7/8.2.3 and Appendix 7/8-1) in November 2014.

In addition to comparable public outreach activities undertaken in 2005, MDIFW provided a 30-day period during which the public had an opportunity to review the Plan and to provide comments and suggestions (Section 7/8.4). MDIFW broadly announced this opportunity and received several hundred comments, which it consolidated into approximately 50 distinct categories (Table 7/8-8). In addition, MDIFW met twice with forest and agricultural interests: once at the start of the Plan update and again during the public-comment period. Their comments and suggestions are reflected throughout Maine's conservation actions.

As Maine prepared its 2015 Action Plan, it adopted a team approach to authoring the several chapters of the Plan. We addressed Elements 1-4 as individual, stand-alone chapters; we combined Elements 5/6 into a single chapter to better address their close relationship. Similarly, and for the same reason, we combined Elements 7/8. These five sequential chapters constitute the Road Map to the Eight Required Elements.

**Table 7/8-1.** Comparison of Conservation Partner Engagement 2005 and 2015.

Partnership Metric	2005	2015
Number of Steering Committee members	0	12 (not including MDIFW staff)
Approximate number of conservation partners (individuals)	64	158
Approximate number of unique organizations	51	102
Number of partner meetings	3	5 (and steering committee and subcommittee meetings, workshops, and others described below)

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**7/8.2 ACTION PLAN COORDINATION TEAM / ACTION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

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**7/8.2.1 ACTION PLAN COORDINATION TEAM**

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MDIFW began assembling an Action Plan Coordination Team in January 2014. This planning team met bi-weekly and developed the strategies necessary to achieve the eight required elements of the 2015 Plan. As the planning responsibilities of the team broadened, it reached out to include additional individuals. Maine’s Coordination Team included the following individuals:

- Judy Camuso, Wildlife Division Director, MDIFW
- Andrew Cutko, Ecologist, Maine Natural Areas Program
- Phillip deMaynadier, Reptile, Amphibian, and Invertebrate Group Leader, MDIFW
- Claire Enterline, Diadromous Fisheries Scientist, Maine Department of Marine Resources
- Amanda Shearin, Wildlife Planner and Biologist, MDIFW
- Mark Stadler, Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, MDIFW (retired)
- Charlie Todd, Endangered and Threatened Species Coordinator, MDIFW
- Nathan Webb, Special Projects Biologist, MDIFW

One of the team’s initial actions was to identify conservation partners who would participate in developing the Plan (Table 7/8-2).

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## 7/8.2.2 ACTION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

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In September 2014, the Coordination Team established an Action Plan Steering Committee to guide the Plan's overall development. The Steering Committee represented the broader conservation partner group by providing regular review and advice concerning the activities and proposed strategies of the Coordination Team. The Committee assisted the Coordination Team with planning conservation partner meetings (five, day-long meetings occurring from July 2014 – June 2015), reviewed strategies for developing the Action Plan prior to implementation with partners, and provided suggestions on partner meeting agendas, meeting format, and the presentation of information to partners. Because the Coordination Team was concerned largely with the week-to-week aspects of Plan preparation, the team asked the Steering Committee to monitor MDIFW's success in accomplishing the larger, overall aspects of the Action Plan (AFWA 2012). The Committee served as ambassadors for the larger group of conservation partners and provided quality-control as development of the Plan progressed. The Steering Committee met monthly, generally for four to five hours. MDIFW recorded the minutes of each

meeting and made these available to the public on the Action Plan website

(<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/MWAP2015.html>).



Conservation Partner break-out session.  
© Mark Stadler

The Nature Conservancy, a member of the Committee, provided Open Standards (CMP 2013) training for MDIFW, members of the Steering Committee, and several conservation partners prior to developing SGCN habitat conservation actions. Following the training, MDIFW, MDMR, MNAP, and several conservation partners met for two, day-long sessions to develop preliminary SGCN habitat conservation actions for (1) Terrestrial / Wetland and (2) Coastal / Marine / Freshwater habitats.

The Steering Committee consisted of representatives from:

- Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust - Angela Twitchell
- Maine Audubon Society - Sally Stockwell
- Maine Coastal Program - Emily Norton
- Maine Dept. of Marine Resources - Claire Enterline
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Jed Wright and Mitchka Hartley
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust - Tim Glidden
- Maine Forest Products Council - Barry Burgason
- Maine Natural Areas Program - Molly Docherty
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - Jeff Norment
- Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine - Tom Doak
- The Nature Conservancy - Barbara Vickery
- Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife - Judy Camuso, Amanda Shearin, Nate Webb, Charlie Todd, Phillip deMaynadier, Mark Stadler

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### 7/8.2.3 SWAP REVIEW AND UPDATE CHARTER

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The Best Practices for State Wildlife Actions Plans (AFWA 2012) recommends that each state prepare a charter to formalize how conservation partners and fish and wildlife agencies will collaboratively develop their Action Plan. The Coordination Team and the Steering Committee began preparing Maine's Operational Charter early in the update; the Steering Committee adopted the charter in November 2014 (Appendix 7/8-2). The Operational Charter outlines the organizational structure that MDIFW and partners established to accomplish the Action Plan update, the process they would use, and the schedule for completing specific tasks. The charter explicitly defines and delineates key roles, responsibilities, and contributions for MDIFW and partners. Maine's Operational Charter addresses the following:

1. Introduction
2. Statement of Purpose: Maine's Wildlife Action Plan
3. Guiding Principles
4. Operational Guidance for Conservation Partners, Including the Steering Committee and Subcommittees
- 5.0 Process Structure
  - 5.1. Conservation partners
  - 5.2. Steering Committee
  - 5.3. Subcommittees
- 6.0 Evaluation

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### 7/8.3 COORDINATION WITH CONSERVATION PARTNERS

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The Coordination Team invited 158 conservation partners to participate in the preparation of Maine's 2015 SWAP, representing 102 unique organizations and key members of the conservation public (Table 7/8-2).

Federal partners	14
State partners	14
Tribal partners	5
Public and Local partners	68 (includes non-governmental conservation organizations)

From July 2014 – June 2015 the partners attended five, day-long conservation partner meetings at which they collaboratively developed Elements 1-5 of the 2015 Action Plan (Tables 7/8-3 - 7/8-6, Appendix 7/8-2).

**Table 7/8-2.** Conservation Partners invited to participate in the preparation of Maine's 2015 SWAP.

<b>Federal</b>
Acadia National Park Maine Army National Guard National Marine Fisheries Service [Maine Field Station] Natural Resource Conservation Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program USFWS Maine Fishery Resource Office USFWS North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative USFWS Maine Wildlife Action Plan Contact USFWS Aroostook, National Wildlife Refuge System USFWS Maine Coastal Islands NWR USFWS Moosehorn NWR USFWS Rachel Carson NWR
<b>State</b>
Baxter State Park DACF <sup>(1)</sup> Bureau of Agriculture, Resource Development Division DACF Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources DACF Land Use Planning Commission DACF Lands for Maine's Future Program DACF Maine Coastal Program DACF Maine Forest Service DACF Maine Natural Areas Program DACF Municipal Planning Assistance Program DAFC Bureau of Parks and Lands Dept. of Environmental Protection Dept. of Marine Resources Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Dept. of Transportation, Environmental Office <sup>(1)</sup> Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
<b>Tribes</b>
Aroostook Band of MicMac Indians Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Passamaquoddy Tribe Indian Township Reservation Passamaquoddy Tribe Pleasant Point Reservation Penobscot Nation

**Table 7/8-2.** *continued: page 2 of 3.*

<b>Public and Local</b>
Appalachian Conservation Biology
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Biodiversity Research Institute
Brunswick Topsham Land Trust
Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
Coastal Mountains Land Trust
Conservation Law Foundation - Maine Advocacy Center
Cornell University
Defenders of Wildlife
Downeast Lakes Land Trust
Downeast Salmon Federation
Ducks Unlimited
Endangered Species Coalition
Forest Society of Maine
GrowSmart Maine
Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Island Institute
Lakes Environmental Association
Maine Aquaculture Association
Maine Association of Wetland Scientists
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions
Maine Association of Planners
Maine Audubon Society
Maine Birding Trail
Maine Bowhunters Association
Maine Chamber of Commerce
Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club
Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Maine Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
Maine Discovery Museum
Maine Farm Bureau
Maine Farmland Trust
Maine Forest Products Council
Maine Lakes Society
Maine Maritime Academy
Maine Professional Guides Association
Maine Rivers
Maine SeaGrant
Maine Tourism Association
Maine Trappers Association
Maine's Teaming With Wildlife / SWG Coalition
Manomet Center for Conservation Science
MDIFW Advisory Council
Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative

**Table 7/8-2.** *continued: page 3 of 3.*

<b>Public and Local (continued)</b>
National Wild Turkey Federation
Natural Resources Council of Maine
North Maine Woods
Northern Maine Partner
Orono Land Trust
Project Share
Restore: The North Woods
Royal River Conservation Trust
Ruffed Grouse Society
Senator George Mitchell Center / Sustainability Solutions Initiative
Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine
Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine
Suffolk University
The Nature Conservancy
Trout Unlimited
University of Maine at Machias, School of Marine Sciences
University of Maine, Orono, Department of Wildlife Ecology
University of Maine, Orono, School of Forest Resources
University of Maine, Orono, School of Biological Sciences
University of New England
University of Southern Maine
Wells Reserve
Wildlife Alliance of Maine

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### **7/8.3.1 COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL PARTNERS**

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The Coordination Team invited 14 federal conservation partners to participate in the preparation of the 2015 Action Plan (Table 7/8-2). Federal partners served on the Steering Committee, attended the five conservation partner meetings, and participated in several workshops and training sessions (Table 7/8-3). Federal partners from Region 5, USFWS, provided an essential link with the tribal partners.

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### **7/8.3.2 COORDINATION WITH STATE PARTNERS**

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Fourteen state agency partners participated in the preparation of the 2015 Action Plan (Table 7/8-2). State partners served on the Steering Committee, attended the five conservation partner meetings, and participated in several workshops and training sessions (Table 7/8-4).

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### **7/8.3.3 COORDINATION WITH TRIBAL PARTNERS**

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The Coordination Team and Steering Committee invited representatives from five Maine tribes to participate (Table 7/8-2). Tribal partners attended one of the five conservation partner meetings (Table 7/8-5). In March 2015, Maine tribes met with staff from the USFWS and members of the Steering Committee. The day-long meeting addressed opportunities for collaboration between federal, state, and tribal partners in the development and funding of conservation programs for SGCN. The tribes requested that species of tribal cultural significance be included on Maine's list of SGCN species. Maine revised its SGCN list to include those species (Element 1).

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### **7/8.3.4 COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC AND LOCAL PARTNERS, INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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Sixty-six public conservation partners, including non-governmental conservation organizations and academia, assisted with the preparation of 2015 Plan, participating in all aspects of Plan development (Tables 7/8-2 and 7/8-6).

**Table 7/8-3.** Extent of coordination with Federal Partners.

Month / Year	Event	Federal Agencies	Acadia National Park	Maine Army National Guard	National Marine Fisheries Service (Maine Field Station)	Natural Resource Conservation Service	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services	USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program	USFWS Maine Fishery Resource Office	USFWS North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative	USFWS, Region 5	USFWS Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge	USFWS Maine Coastal Islands NWR	USFWS Moosehorn NWR	USFWS Rachel Carson NWR	U.S. Geological Survey, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
May 2014	Invited to participate in 2015 action plan update		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
July 2014	Conservation Partners Meeting #1		X					X	X			X		X		X	X
	Maine Department of Marine Resources Information Session																
August 2014	Public Outreach Subcommittee Meeting																
September 2014	Landowners Meeting																
	Keeping Maine's Forests Implementation Committee																
	Steering Committee Meeting					X			X		X						
	MDIFW Advisory Council Meeting																
	Conservation Partners Meeting #2		X			X		X	X				X	X	X	X	
October 2014	Stanton Bird Club Annual Meeting																
	Society of American Foresters Fall Meeting																
	Steering Committee Meeting					X			X								
November 2014	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS																
	SFI-Fisheries Improvement Network																
	Conservation Partners Meeting #3							X	X				X				
	Steering Committee Meeting					X			X								
	Human Dimensions Meeting								X								

**Table 7/8-3. continued: page 2 of 3.**

Month / Year	Event	Federal Agencies	Acadia National Park	Maine Army National Guard	National Marine Fisheries Service (Maine Field Station)	Natural Resource Conservation Service	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services	USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program	USFWS Maine Fishery Resource Office	USFWS North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative	USFWS, Region 5	USFWS Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge	USFWS Maine Coastal Islands NWR	USFWS Moosehorn NWR	USFWS Rachel Carson NWR	U. S. Geological Survey, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
December 2014	Unity College Herpetology Class																
	Tribal Engagement Conference																
	Call with USFWS																
	Steering Committee Meeting					X				X							
January 2015	Tribal Engagement Conference Call																
	Conservation Partner Meeting #4		X					X							X		
February 2015	Steering Committee Meeting					X											
	Open Standards Training					X				X							
	Marine/Coastal/Aquatic Conservation Proposal Brainstorming		X							X							
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Proposal Brainstorming					X											
March 2015	NE Cottontail Working Group Annual Meeting																
	Eastern Maine Sportsman Show																
	Steering Committee Meeting									X							
	Presque Isle Sportsman Show																
	Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting																
	Maine Tribal Engagement Meeting																
	State of Maine Sportsman Show																
	Maine Dept. of Transportation Meeting on Invasive Species Actions																
Brunswick Conservation Commission Presentation																	

**Table 7/8-3. continued: page 3 of 3.**

Month / Year	Event	Federal Agencies	Acadia National Park	Maine Army National Guard	National Marine Fisheries Service (Maine Field Station)	Natural Resource Conservation Service	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services	USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program	USFWS Maine Fishery Resource Office	USFWS North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative	USFWS, Region 5	USFWS Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge	USFWS Maine Coastal Islands NWR	USFWS Moosehorn NWR	USFWS Rachel Carson NWR	U.S. Geological Survey, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
	Steering Committee Meeting					X											
April 2015	Marine/Coastal Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting		X														
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting																
	Steering Committee Review of Habitat Conservation Actions																
	Maine Land Trust Network Conference Workshop																
May 2015	York County Community College Environmental Science Class																
	Maine Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting																
June 2015	Steering Committee Meeting					X			X								
	Steering Committee Meeting					X			X					X		X	
	Maine Forest Products Council Presentation																
	Landowner Meeting																
	Conservation Partners Meeting #5													X			
July 2015	30-day Public Comment Period on Draft Action Plan											X		X			

**Table 7/8-4.** Extent of coordination with State Partners.

Month / Year	Event	State Agencies	Baxter State Park Authority	DACF (1) Bureau of Agriculture, Resource Development Division	DACF Bureau of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources	DACF Land Use Planning Commission	DACF Lands for Maine's Future Program	DACF Maine Coastal Program	DACF Maine Forest Service	DACF Maine Natural Areas Program	DACF Municipal Planning Assistance Program	DACF Bureau of Parks and Lands	Dept. of Environmental Protection	Dept. of Marine Resources	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Advisory Council	Dept. of Transportation, Environmental Office	Maine Army National Guard
May 2014	Invited to participate in 2015 action plan update		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
July 2014	Conservation Partners Meeting #1					X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
	Maine Department of Marine Resources Information Session																
August 2014	Public Outreach Subcommittee Meeting											X					
September 2014	Landowners Meeting																
	Keeping Maine's Forests Implementation Committee																
	Steering Committee Meeting									X							
	MDIFW Advisory Council Meeting														X		
October 2014	Conservation Partners Meeting #2					X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
	Stanton Bird Club Annual Meeting																
	Society of American Foresters Fall Meeting																
November 2014	Steering Committee Meeting									X							
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS																
	SFI-Fisheries Improvement Network																
	Conservation Partners Meeting #3				X			X		X				X			
	Steering Committee Meeting									X							
	Human Dimensions Meeting																

**Table 7/8-4. continued: page 2 of 3.**

Month / Year	Event	State Agencies	Baxter State Park Authority	DACF(1) Bureau of Agriculture, Resource Development Division	DACF Bureau of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources	DACF Land Use Planning Commission	DACF Lands for Maine's Future Program	DACF Maine Coastal Program	DACF Maine Forest Service	DACF Maine Natural Areas Program	DACF Municipal Planning Assistance Program	DACF Bureau of Parks and Lands	Dept. of Environmental Protection	Dept. of Marine Resources	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Advisory Council	Dept. of Transportation, Environmental Office	Maine Army National Guard
December 2014	Unity College Herpetology Class																
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS																
	Steering Committee Meeting									X							
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call																
January 2015	Conservation Partner Meeting #4			X			X	X	X				X				
	Steering Committee Meeting									X							
February 2015	Steering Committee Meeting							X		X							
	Open Standards Training							X		X							
	Marine/Coastal/Aquatic Conservation Proposal Brainstorming							X		X				X			
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Proposal Brainstorming									X							
March 2015	NE Cottontail Working Group Annual Meeting																
	Eastern Maine Sportsman Show																
	Steering Committee Meeting													X			
	Presque Isle Sportsman Show																
	Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting																
	Maine Tribal Engagement Meeting																
	State of Maine Sportsman Show																
	Maine Dept. of Transportation Meeting on Invasive Species Actions															X	
Brunswick Conservation Commission Presentation																	
April 2015	Steering Committee Meeting							X		X				X			
	Marine/Coastal Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting							X						X			

**Table 7/8-4. continued: page 3 of 3.**

Month / Year	Event	State Agencies	Baxter State Park Authority	DACF(1) Bureau of Agriculture, Resource Development Division	DACF Bureau of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources	DACF Land Use Planning Commission	DACF Lands for Maine's Future Program	DACF Maine Coastal Program	DACF Maine Forest Service	DACF Maine Natural Areas Program	DACF Municipal Planning Assistance Program	DACF Bureau of Parks and Lands	Dept. of Environmental Protection	Dept. of Marine Resources	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Advisory Council	Dept. of Transportation, Environmental Office	Maine Army National Guard
April 2015 (continued)	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting									X							
	Steering Committee Review of Habitat Conservation Actions							X		X				X			
	Maine Land Trust Network Conference Workshop																
May 2015	York County Community College Environmental Science Class																
	Maine Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting																
	Steering Committee Meeting							X		X							
June 2015	Steering Committee Meeting																
	Maine Forest Products Council Presentation																
	Landowner Meeting																
July 2015	Conservation Partners Meeting #5					X	X	X		X	X					X	
	30-day Public Comment Period on Draft Action Plan								X								
(1) Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry																	

**Table 7/8-5.** Extent of coordination with Tribal Partners.

Month / Year	Event	Tribal Partners	Aroostook Band or MicMac Indians	Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	Passamaquoddy Tribe, Indian Township Reservation	Passamaquoddy Tribe, Pleasant Point Reservation	Penobscot Nation
May 2014	Invited to participate in 2015 action plan update		X	X	X	X	X
July 2014	Conservation Partners Meeting #1						X
	Maine Department of Marine Resources Information Session						
August 2014	Public Outreach Subcommittee Meeting						
September 2014	Landowners Meeting						
	Keeping Maine's Forests Implementation Committee						
	Steering Committee Meeting						
	MDIFW Advisory Council Meeting						
	Conservation Partners Meeting #2						
October 2014	Stanton Bird Club Annual Meeting						
	Society of American Foresters Fall Meeting						
	Steering Committee Meeting						
November 2014	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS						
	SFI-Fisheries Improvement Network						
	Conservation Partners Meeting #3						
	Steering Committee Meeting						
December 2014	Human Dimensions Meeting						
	Unity College Herpetology Class						
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS						
	Steering Committee Meeting						
January 2015	Tribal Engagement Conference Call						
	Conservation Partner Meeting #4						
February 2015	Steering Committee Meeting						
	Steering Committee Meeting						
	Open Standards Training						
	Marine/Coastal/Aquatic Conservation Proposal Brainstorming						
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Proposal Brainstorming						

**Table 7/8-5. continued: page 2 of 2.**

Month / Year	Event	Tribal Partners	Aroostook Band or MicMac Indians	Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	Passamaquoddy Tribe, Indian Township Reservation	Passamaquoddy Tribe, Pleasant Point Reservation	Penobscot Nation
March 2015	NE Cottontail Working Group Annual Meeting						
	Eastern Maine Sportsman Show						
	Steering Committee Meeting						
	Presque Isle Sportsman Show						
	Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting						
	Maine Tribal Engagement Meeting		X	X	X	X	X
	State of Maine Sportsman Show						
	Maine Dept. of Transportation Meeting on Invasive Species Actions						
April 2015	Brunswick Conservation Commission Presentation						
	Steering Committee Meeting						
	Marine/Coastal Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting						
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting						
	Steering Committee Review of Habitat Conservation Actions						
May 2015	Maine Land Trust Network Conference Workshop						
	York County Community College Environmental Science Class						
	Maine Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting						
June 2015	Steering Committee Meeting						
	Maine Forest Products Council Presentation						
	Landowner Meeting						
	Conservation Partners Meeting #5						
July 2015	30-day Public Comment Period on Draft Action Plan			X			

**Table 7/8-6.** Extent of coordination with Public and Local Partners.

Month / Year	Event	Members of the General Public	Public and Local Partners	Appalachian Conservation Biology	Atlantic Salmon Federation	Biodiversity Research Institute	Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust	Casco Bay Estuary Project	Coastal Mountains Land Trust	Conservation Law Foundation, Maine Advocacy Center	Cornell University	Defenders of Wildlife	Downeast Lakes Land Trust	Downeast Salmon Federation	Ducks Unlimited	Endangered Species Coalition	Forest Society of Maine	GrowSmart Maine	Gulf or Maine Research Institute	Island Institute	Lakes Environmental Association	Maine Aquaculture Association	Maine Association of Wetland Scientists	Maine Audubon Society	Maine Birding Trail	Maine Bowhunters Association
May 2014	Invited to participate in 2015 action plan update			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
July 2014	Conservation Partners Meeting #1					X	X										X						X	X		X
	Maine Department of Marine Resources Information Session																									
August 2014	Public Outreach Subcommittee Meeting																								X	
September 2014	Landowners Meeting						X										X									
	Keeping Maine's Forests Implementation Committee	X																								
	Steering Committee Meeting						X																	X		
	MDIFW Advisory Council Meeting																									
October 2014	Conservation Partners Meeting #2			X			X	X					X				X	X					X	X		X
	Stanton Bird Club Annual Meeting	X																								
	Society of American Foresters Fall Meeting	X																								
November 2014	Steering Committee Meeting						X																	X		
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS																									
	SFI-Fisheries Improvement Network	X																								
	Conservation Partners Meeting #3							X					X										X	X		X
	Steering Committee Meeting						X																	X		
December 2014	Human Dimensions Meeting																									
	Unity College Herpetology Class	X																								
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS																									
January 2015	Steering Committee Meeting						X																	X		
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call																									
	Conservation Partner Meeting #4						X	X															X			

Table 7/8-6. continued: page 2 of 9.

Month / Year	Event	Members of the General Public	Public and Local Partners	Appalachian Conservation Biology	Atlantic Salmon Federation	Biodiversity Research Institute	Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust	Casco Bay Estuary Project	Coastal Mountains Land Trust	Conservation Law Foundation, Maine Advocacy Center	Cornell University	Defenders of Wildlife	Downeast Lakes Land Trust	Downeast Salmon Federation	Ducks Unlimited	Endangered Species Coalition	Forest Society of Maine	GrowSmart Maine	Gulf or Maine Research Institute	Island Institute	Lakes Environmental Association	Maine Aquaculture Association	Maine Association of Wetland Scientists	Maine Audubon Society	Maine Birding Trail	Maine Bowhunters Association
February 2015	Steering Committee Meeting						X																	X		
	Open Standards Training						X																	X		
	Marine/Coastal/Aquatic Conservation Proposal Brainstorming							X						X									X			
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Proposal Brainstorming																X							X		
March 2015	NE Cottontail Working Group Annual Meeting	X															X									
	Eastern Maine Sportsman Show	X																								
	Steering Committee Meeting						X																	X		
	Presque Isle Sportsman Show	X																								
	Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting																						X			
	Maine Tribal Engagement Meeting																									
	State of Maine Sportsman Show	X																								
	Maine Dept. of Transportation Meeting on Invasive Species Actions																									
Brunswick Conservation Commission Presentation	X																									
April 2015	Steering Committee Meeting																								X	
	Marine/Coastal Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting													X												
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting																									
	Steering Committee Review of Habitat Conservation Actions																									
	Maine Land Trust Network Conference Workshop	X																								

**Table 7/8-6.** *continued: page 3 of 9.*

Month / Year	Event	Members of the General Public	Public and Local Partners	Appalachian Conservation Biology	Atlantic Salmon Federation	Biodiversity Research Institute	Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust	Casco Bay Estuary Project	Coastal Mountains Land Trust	Conservation Law Foundation, Maine Advocacy Center	Cornell University	Defenders of Wildlife	Downeast Lakes Land Trust	Downeast Salmon Federation	Ducks Unlimited	Endangered Species Coalition	Forest Society of Maine	GrowSmart Maine	Gulf or Maine Research Institute	Island Institute	Lakes Environmental Association	Maine Aquaculture Association	Maine Association of Wetland Scientists	Maine Audubon Society	Maine Birding Trail	Maine Bowhunters Association
May 2015	York County Community College Environmental Science Class	X																								
	Maine Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting	X																								
	Steering Committee Meeting																							X		
June 2015	Steering Committee Meeting																									
	Maine Forest Products Council Presentation																									
	Landowner Meeting																									
July 2015	Conservation Partners Meeting #5	X														X						X	X	X		
	30-day Public Comment Period on Draft Action Plan	X																				X				

**Table 7/8-6. continued: page 4 of 9.**

Month / Year	Event	Public and Local Partners																								
		Maine Chamber of Commerce	Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club	Maine Chapter or the Wildlife Society	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Maine Discovery Museum	Maine Farm Bureau	Maine Farmland Trust	Maine Forest Products Council	Maine Lakes Society	Maine Maritime Academy	Maine Professional Guides Association	Maine Rivers	Maine Sea Grant	Maine Tourism Association	Maine Trappers Association	Maine Teaming with Wildlife – State Wildlife Grant Coalition	Manomet Center for Conservation Science	Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea	National Wild Turkey Federation	Natural Resources Council of Maine	North Maine Woods	Northern Maine Partner	Orono Land Trust	Project Share	Restore: The North Woods
May 2014	Invited to participate in 2015 action plan update	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
July 2014	Conservation Partners Meeting #1 Maine Department of Marine Resources Information Session			X	X		X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	
August 2014	Public Outreach Subcommittee Meeting								X																	
September 2014	Landowners Meeting						X		X																	
	Keeping Maine's Forests Implementation Committee																									
	Steering Committee Meeting																									
	MDIFW Advisory Council Meeting																									
	Conservation Partners Meeting #2			X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X	X	X						X		X
October 2014	Stanton Bird Club Annual Meeting																									
	Society of American Foresters Fall Meeting																									
	Steering Committee Meeting								X																	
November 2014	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS																									
	SFI-Fisheries Improvement Network																									
	Conservation Partners Meeting #3			X			X		X				X		X	X								X		X
	Steering Committee Meeting				X			X																		
	Human Dimensions Meeting																									
December 2014	Unity College Herpetology Class																									
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS																									
	Steering Committee Meeting				X			X																		
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call																									
January 2015	Conservation Partner Meeting #4											X		X		X	X	X						X		X
	Steering Committee Meeting																									

Table 7/8-6. continued: page 5 of 9.

Month / Year	Event	Public and Local Partners	Maine Chamber of Commerce	Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club	Maine Chapter or the Wildlife Society	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Maine Discovery Museum	Maine Farm Bureau	Maine Farmland Trust	Maine Forest Products Council	Maine Lakes Society	Maine Maritime Academy	Maine Professional Guides Association	Maine Rivers	Maine SeaGrant	Maine Tourism Association	Maine Trappers Association	Maine Teaming with Wildlife – State Wildlife Grant Coalition	Manomet Center for Conservation Science	Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea	National Wild Turkey Federation	Natural Resources Council of Maine	North Maine Woods	Northern Maine Partner	Orono Land Trust	Project Share	Restore: The North Woods
February 2015	Steering Committee Meeting				X					X																	
	Open Standards Training				X																						
	Marine/Coastal/Aquatic Conservation Proposal Brainstorming				X									X													
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Proposal Brainstorming									X								X	X						X		
March 2015	NE Cottontail Working Group Annual Meeting																										
	Eastern Maine Sportsman Show																										
	Steering Committee Meeting				X					X																	
	Presque Isle Sportsman Show																										
	Maine Ass'n of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting																										
	Maine Tribal Engagement Meeting																										
	State of Maine Sportsman Show																										
	Maine Dept. of Transportation Meeting on Invasive Species Actions																										
Brunswick Conservation Commission Presentation																											
April 2015	Steering Committee Meeting									X																	
	Marine/Coastal Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting																										
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting																										
	Steering Committee Review of Habitat Conservation Actions																										
	Maine Land Trust Network Conference Workshop																										

**Table 7/8-6.** *continued: page 6 of 9.*

Month / Year	Event	Public and Local Partners																									
		Maine Chamber of Commerce	Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club	Maine Chapter or the Wildlife Society	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Maine Discovery Museum	Maine Farm Bureau	Maine Farmland Trust	Maine Forest Products Council	Maine Lakes Society	Maine Maritime Academy	Maine Professional Guides Association	Maine Rivers	Maine Sea Grant	Maine Tourism Association	Maine Trappers Association	Maine Teaming with Wildlife – State Wildlife Grant Coalition	Manomet Center for Conservation Science	Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea	National Wild Turkey Federation	Natural Resources Council of Maine	North Maine Woods	Northern Maine Partner	Orono Land Trust	Project Share	Restore: The North Woods	
May 2015	York County Community College Environmental Science Class																										
	Maine Ass'n of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting																										
	Steering Committee Meeting								X																		
June 2015	Steering Committee Meeting																										
	Maine Forest Products Council Presentation																										
	Landowner Meeting																										
	Conservation Partners Meeting #5			X	X						X		X		X											X	
July 2015	30-day Public Comment Period on Draft Action Plan						X						X				X			X							

**Table 7/8-6. continued: page 7 of 9.**

Month / Year	Event	Public and Local Partners	Royal River Conservation Trust	Ruffed Grouse Society	Senator George Mitchell Center / Sustainability Solutions Initiative	Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine	Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine	Suffolk University	The Nature Conservancy	Trout Unlimited	University of Maine, Machias School of Marine Sciences	University of Maine, Orono School of Forest Resources and Dept. of Wildlife Ecology	University of Maine, Orono School of Biological Sciences	University of New England	University of Southern Maine	Wells Estuarine Reserve	Wildlife Alliance of Maine	Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Maine Association of Planners
May 2014	Invited to participate in 2015 action plan update		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
July 2014	Conservation Partners Meeting #1					X			X			X		X		X			X
	Maine Department of Marine Resources Information Session																		
August 2014	Public Outreach Subcommittee Meeting											X							
September 2014	Landowners Meeting					X			X										
	Keeping Maine's Forests Implementation Committee																		
	Steering Committee Meeting					X			X										
	MDIFW Advisory Council Meeting																		
October 2014	Conservation Partners Meeting #2						X	X	X		X					X			
	Stanton Bird Club Annual Meeting																		
	Society of American Foresters Fall Meeting																		
November 2014	Steering Committee Meeting				X			X											
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS																		
	SFI-Fisheries Improvement Network																		
	Conservation Partners Meeting #3						X	X	X		X								
	Steering Committee Meeting								X										
December 2014	Human Dimensions Meeting											X							
	Unity College Herpetology Class																		
	Tribal Engagement Conference Call with USFWS																		
	Steering Committee Meeting					X			X										
January 2015	Tribal Engagement Conference Call																		
	Conservation Partner Meeting #4						X	X	X										
	Steering Committee Meeting					X			X										

**Table 7/8-6. continued: page 8 of 9.**

Month / Year	Event	Public and Local Partners																
		Royal River Conservation Trust	Ruffed Grouse Society	Senator George Mitchell Center / Sustainability Solutions Initiative	Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine	Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine	Suffolk University	The Nature Conservancy	Trout Unlimited	University of Maine, Machias School of Marine Sciences	University of Maine, Orono School of Forest Resources and Dept. of Wildlife Ecology	University of Maine, Orono School of Biological Sciences	University of New England	University of Southern Maine	Wells Estuarine Reserve	Wildlife Alliance of Maine	Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Maine Association of Planners
February 2015	Steering Committee Meeting							X										
	Open Standards Training							X										
	Marine/Coastal/Aquatic Conservation Proposal Brainstorming							X	X			X		X				
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Proposal Brainstorming				X			X										
March 2015	NE Cottontail Working Group Annual Meeting																	
	Eastern Maine Sportsman Show																	
	Steering Committee Meeting							X										
	Presque Isle Sportsman Show																	
	Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting																X	
	Maine Tribal Engagement Meeting																	
	State of Maine Sportsman Show																	
	Maine Dept. of Transportation Meeting on Invasive Species Actions																	
April 2015	Brunswick Conservation Commission Presentation																	
	Steering Committee Meeting				X			X										
	Marine/Coastal Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting										X							
	Terrestrial/Wetland Conservation Action Theme Development Meeting								X									
	Steering Committee Review of Habitat Conservation Actions				X			X										
Maine Land Trust Network Conference Workshop																		

**Table 7/8-6. continued: page 9 of 9.**

Month / Year	Event	Public and Local Partners																
		Royal River Conservation Trust	Ruffed Grouse Society	Senator George Mitchell Center / Sustainability Solutions Initiative	Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine	Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine	Suffolk University	The Nature Conservancy	Trout Unlimited	University of Maine, Machias School of Marine Sciences	University of Maine, Orono School of Forest Resources and Dept. of Wildlife Ecology	University of Maine, Orono School of Biological Sciences	University of New England	University of Southern Maine	Wells Estuarine Reserve	Wildlife Alliance of Maine	Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Maine Association of Planners
May 2015	York County Community College Environmental Science Class																	
	Maine Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting																	
	Steering Committee Meeting							X										
June 2015	Steering Committee Meeting																	
	Maine Forest Products Council Presentation																	
	Landowner Meeting																	
July 2015	Conservation Partners Meeting #5				X		X	X										
	30-day Public Comment Period on Draft Action Plan				X			X										

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## 7/8.4 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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MDIFW established a Public Outreach Subcommittee comprised of conservation partners to guide its public participation efforts. The Subcommittee identified several methods to engage the public, encourage participation, and solicit comment. The Coordination Team and Steering Committee implemented these methods, making effective use of agency resources to ensure an appropriate level of public participation. Table 7/8-7 presents a summary of these efforts.

**Table 7/8-7.** Press Releases, Articles, and Social Media.

MDIFW Press Release	November 19, 2014
MDIFW Facebook post (181 likes, 26 shares)	November 19, 2014
MDIFW Twitter	November 24, 2014
SeaCoast Online Article	November 30, 2014
Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Newsletter	February 2015
MDIFW prepared a stock newsletter article available to all partners	February 2015
Action Plan update brochure	March 2015
Press release when the Action Plan was posted for public review	July 2015
Social media posts when the Action Plan was posted for public review	July 2015

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### 7/8.4.1 PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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During each Action Plan presentation or workshop, MDIFW asked the audience its thoughts on the best ways to present Plan information to partners and what would partners find most useful for incorporating the Plan into their own work. MDIFW also asked what types of 'services' (e.g., web portals, technical assistance) partners would find most helpful. MDIFW recorded all suggestions for consideration during Plan implementation.

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### 7/8.4.2 BROCHURE

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MDIFW developed an Action Plan brochure (March 2015) and made it available to agency staff for distribution at non-Action Plan related meetings or presentations. MDIFW also provided the brochure to partners for distribution within their respective organizations.

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### 7/8.4.3 PEER REVIEW

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MDIFW and conservation partners invited 47 external biologists and taxa specialists to peer review the criteria used to identify SGCN and the draft SGCN list (June 2014). MDIFW received

several hundred species-specific comments from peer reviewers. In addition, specialists reviewed SGCN habitats and SGCN habitat stressors (January 2015) and provided comments.

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#### 7/8.4.4 MAINE ACTION PLAN WEBPAGE

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MDIFW established an Action Plan webpage, within the agency website, dedicated to the 2015 Plan revision (June 2014): <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/MWAP2015.html>. The page allows the public and partners to view Action Plan documents, meeting schedules, Steering Committee and subcommittee meeting minutes, and contact information, as well as the 2005 Wildlife Action Plan. MDIFW updates the page regularly.

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#### 7/8.4.5 EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

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MDIFW created a dedicated Google email account (July 2014) to receive public inquiries and comments and posted the address on the Action Plan webpage, in press releases, and correspondence with partners. In addition, MDIFW has engaged in numerous email exchanges with partners and the public via staff's individual maine.gov email accounts.

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#### 7/8.4.6 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD

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MDIFW provided a 30-day comment period, extending from July 13 – August 12, 2015, to allow the public an opportunity to review the Action Plan and to provide written comments and suggestions. Conservation partners also had an opportunity to provide additional comments during the period. We received approximately 50 unique comments. MDIFW discussed all comments with the Steering Committee (Table 7/8-8). Substantive comments are considered below.

##### **Public Comments**

MDIFW received 196 form emails requesting that the Gray Wolf be added to Maine's list of SGCN. The wolf was an SGCN in Maine's 2005 Plan, but MDIFW did not designate the wolf as an SGCN in 2015. The Steering Committee suggested that MDIFW reconsider the wolf as a potential SGCN. MDIFW concluded that there is no current evidence of a population of wolves in Maine and that the establishment of a viable wolf population is unlikely. As such, the species does not meet Maine's SGCN listing criteria which specifies that only Maine extant species be considered for designation as SGCN.



Conservation Partner break-out session.  
© Mark Stadler

**Table 7/8-8.** Summary of all comments and inquiries received.

Affiliation	Comment	Relevant Element
Northeast Wolf Coalition	Add Gray Wolf to SGCN list	1
Maine Wolf Coalition	Add Gray Wolf to SGCN list	1
Public	Add Gray Wolf to SGCN list; more public involvement needed; wolves were on 2005 SGCN list	1
	MDIFW received 196 form emails requesting the addition of the wolf as an SGCN	
Public	Concern over moose declines	1
Public	Clarify the criteria “cultural significance” used to designate SGCN	1
Public	Concern about loon conservation. Why aren’t loons on the SGCN list?	1
Freeport Wild Bird Supply	Noted inconsistencies and lacking information in species reports for birds (e.g., no stressors listed for loon; no actions listed for P3 SGCN that are lacking information); concern for use of citizen science and other monitoring methods; provided a species-specific list of comments	1
Public	Concern with noise and chemical effects of fireworks on loons	1
Public	Commented on the lack of several raptors on SGCN list; suggested use of the survey methodology employed by the Maine River Bird Survey	
Public	Recommended use of Natural Resource Conservation Service habitat evaluation procedure	2
Public	Commented that the Plan needs further review and noted that the Northeast Terrestrial Habitat Classification System no longer mandates 75% canopy cover to be assessed as wildlife habitat	2, 4
Natural Resources Council of Maine	Plan lacks consideration of the condition of the Maine forest	2, 4
Suffolk University	Commented that “stressor” is the appropriate term; rockweed is not the only marine resource that is a habitat and in a permanent location	2, 3
Public	Structural modifiers needed; lack of successional stages and forest structure in habitat classification; forests not appropriately classified based on canopy cover; lack of northern White Cedar in plan by name; forestry is a greater stressor than identified; not enough specificity on forest condition; 2005 plan did a better job of identifying canopy closure types	2, 4
Public	More details needed on why climate change impacts are so prevalent in Plan given uncertainty	3

**Table 7/8-8.** *continued: page 2 of 4.*

Affiliation	Comment	Relevant Element
The Nature Conservancy	Plan needs adjustments to characterization of several coastal habitat stressors and actions (e.g., tidal restrictions need to be added to tidal marshes; culvert replacement timeframes; add living ecosystem alternatives to hardened shorelines, etc.)	3, 4
Maine Aquaculture Association	Plan implementation needs to engage marine resource users; lack of citations; disease actions should be drafted and implemented with USDA APHIS	3, 4
Maine Forest Service	Concern regarding the characterization of forestry as a stressor when other stressors are more prominent; questioned the inclusion of MDIFW in outcome-based forestry and certification programs and in on-going efforts e.g., chop-and-drop, etc.; is MDIFW looking to modify outcome based-forestry, certification? Actions require further prioritization	3, 4
Public	Plan needs additional citations for stressors and actions; need support for landowner incentives such as term easements and technical assistance biologists; need to review actions for specificity and any regulatory language; produce audience specific guides to the Plan; concern about grouping forestry and agricultural stressors together; need more action prioritization and how to define success; expand SGCN management actions on MDIFW lands to all public lands; establish an ongoing landowners committee similar to the steering committee; include more information in the Plan on where nongame funding comes from	3, 4
Public	Plan needs additional citations for stressors and actions; actions require additional specificity; need to review actions for any regulatory language; need stronger language throughout that this is not MDMR's work plan and that MDMR is a partner; make sure all references and disclaimers are included in reports	3, 4
Aquaculture Industry	Recommended line item clarifications to stressors, tables, species, and actions	1, 3, 4
Public	Local funding is necessary for implementation of actions; prioritize and promote habitat connectivity	4
Sea Grant	Reduce marine guilds to only relevant SGCN; amend actions so as not to conflict with aquaculture activities; general rewording of actions	4
Appalachian Mountain Club	Plan needs to address conservation of sub-alpine forest	4
Suffolk University	Why are there conservation actions for harvested (and therefore, regulated) marine species; concern for conflicts between guild-level actions and aquaculture	

**Table 7/8-8.** *continued: page 3 of 4.*

Affiliation	Comment	Relevant Element
Maliseets	Recommended that the Plan include actions related to installing instream habitat structures in streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds	4
Maine Farm Bureau	Promote landowner incentives; concern that the Plan may become regulatory	4
Manomet	Suggest interagency coordination on Action Plan outreach (e.g., Maine DOT on culverts, MFS on forests); MNAP should be listed as a co-lead on several actions	4
The Nature Conservancy	Provided line item comments on habitat actions, program action themes, and habitat action themes	4
Public	Construct wildlife crossings; stop slaughter of coyotes and cormorants; stop bear baiting; restrict pesticides; protect turtle crossings; need for general public outreach on wildlife issues	4, 8
Public	Remove competing fish species from Atlantic Salmon streams	4
Public	Biodiversity is more important than just game management; manage for old growth not just deer yards	4
Manomet	Provided line item comments on habitat actions and themes; concern that climate change plays too prominent a role relative to other stressors; need to partner with other relevant groups such as developers, builders, and agriculture	3, 4, 7, 8
The Nature Conservancy	Provided comprehensive comments on elements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Table 7/8-8.** *continued: page 4 of 4.*

	General Comments & Inquiries	
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Unable to sort conservation actions in the Excel file	
Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine	Inquiry from SWOAM member concerned that the Plan may become regulatory	
Public	Somewhat difficult to navigate through the Plan; need a summary version	
Public	Need for moose surveys in southern Maine	
Public	Concern about the length of the Plan	
Public	Suggested native partridge restoration in southern Maine	
Public	Increase any-deer permits to take more does	
Public	Increase doe permits	
Public	Plan must remember that people need to live here too	
Public	Reduce hunting and promote tourism	
Public	Where is the list of endangered species?	
Public	Landowner concern about public access to private property	
Public	Is this also a fisheries Action Plan?	
Public	Make the State Wildlife Action Plan happen; thanks for the hard work	

The importance of habitat connectivity was commented upon. MDIFW recognizes the importance of this concept, and several of the habitat conservation actions specifically address connectivity (TW Theme 5, Table 4-20, Element 4).

Some comments concerned the length of the Plan, expressing concern that there is too much content for readers to absorb (Programmatic Action 2, Section 7/8.5). MDIFW shares this concern; notably, the 2015 Action Plan is approximately 20-25% of the page length of the 2005 Action Plan submission.

### **Conservation Partner Comments**

Manomet Center for Conservation Science commented that climate change is an important issue that needs to be addressed in the long-term, but there are a host of other threats that may be more problematic in the short-term, reducing the importance of climate change as a priority. The Steering Committee noted that climate change, in many cases, is listed as an 'other factor' within the threat assessment and this tended to over-emphasize climate change. MDIFW revised Table 1-3 to address this (Element 1).

Manomet suggested partnering with other relevant groups, especially agriculture, developers and builders, urban forestry interests, and the Maine Municipal Association (See Programmatic Action 2, Section 7/8.5). In regards to agricultural interests, Manomet commented that there are increasing pressures to supply food from sources that address biodiversity and anticipates increasing Action Plan opportunities with potato growers, blueberry growers, dairy, and nursery.

Manomet also provided comments addressing specific conservation actions. The Action Plan Implementation Committee will consider these as the Plan is implemented (Programmatic Action 1, Section 7/8.5).

The Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy commented that the Plan's habitat actions are numerous and could be combined to reduce their sheer volume and that some actions are not as specific as they could be (Programmatic Action 1, Section 7/8.5; Programmatic Action 9, Elements 5/6; and Section 4.5.2, Element 4). TNC provided comments addressing specific conservation actions. The Action Plan Implementation Committee will consider these as the Plan is implemented (Programmatic Action 1, Section 7/8.5).

The Appalachian Mountain Club commented that the Plan should focus more attention on the acquisition of sub-alpine habitat. The Steering Committee recognized that the Action Plan does identify acquisition as a strategy for the conservation of pine barrens and floodplain forests and could do so for sub-alpine forest as well. It concluded that the Action Plan addressed AMC's concern, the conservation of sub-alpine habitat, by focusing several conservation actions on SGCN associated with sub-alpine forest (e.g., Bicknell's Thrush, Table 4-7, Element 4).

MDIFW received comments from a conservation partner in Northern Maine expressing concern that the Plan does not adequately consider the threats of forest management to the condition and structure of key forest habitats. He offered that the Plan could address this by including measures of relative condition, such as the forest canopy cover and forest development stage, within the Plan's habitat information. The partner also commented that the Plan does not recognize the importance of Northern White Cedar stands as a valuable forest habitat.

MDIFW recognizes that forest condition and structure (e.g., canopy closure, vertical layering) are important habitat characteristics for many SGCN; however, the GIS habitat layer provided with the Northeast Terrestrial Habitat Classification System (The Nature Conservancy and

NatureServe 2011) is not an effective source for this spatial information. MDIFW and the Steering Committee concluded that many of the partner's concerns are addressed adequately in the Plan (TW Theme 4, Table 4-20, Element 4). Also, there is a specific conservation action to "Develop habitat management recommendations for all Priority 1 and Priority 2 SGCN and guilds that are sensitive to certain intensive forest management practices," (Table 4.1, Element 4), that provides an opportunity for outreach to forest managers and landowners that addresses concerns about forest condition applicable to specific, sensitive SGCN.

The Maine Farm Bureau, expressed concern about the possible regulatory implications of the Plan. MDIFW clarified that the Plan was non-regulatory in a written response.

MDMR received comments from marine industries noting a general lack of citations supporting the impacts of various threats to marine SGCN and their habitats. They suggested the addition of applicable citations to bolster the documentation of the stressors, and to make clear that some stressors are perceived and additional investigation is warranted. MDMR provided the requested additional citations.

### Landowner Comments

Huber Resources Corporation, SWOAM, and Maine Forest Products Council provided comments during a landowner meeting with MDIFW on August 11, 2015. The group offered these comments:

1. The Action Plan could be improved with greater citation regarding the impacts of stressors. MDIFW responded that citations exist in the species reports, and because this information exists in a database, MDIFW can continuously update citations following plan submission. In addition, MDIFW noted the significance of professional knowledge, based on unpublished field experience, as well as the consensus of conservation partners, and using this collective knowledge in the formulation of Maine's Plan.



Open Standards break-out session. © Mark Stadler

2. Forestry and agricultural effluents should not be included together as a single stressor. The group questioned whether forestry effluents are a stressor, and stated that effluents have become less of an issue in forest management due to increased application of Best Management Practices (BMPs). MDIFW agreed that there is a loss of specificity by grouping forestry and agriculture, but explained that this grouping is the result of using the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) threat lexicon, which all the Northeast states are using as a common scheme to categorize stressors.
3. Forest certification should not involve MDIFW in the one-on-one audits between landowners and the certification system. MDIFW indicated that this was not intended and clarified the conservation action to read -- Action 42: MDIFW offer collaboration and technical expertise to forest certifications systems for a subset of applicable SGCN and their forest habitats (Table 4-16, Element 4).

4. The comprehensive nature of the threat assessment in the draft Action Plan could be misused. MDIFW recognized this possibility and addressed it by focusing the Plan's conservation actions only on those issues that address higher priority stressors.
5. Some conservation actions have a regulatory quality. MDIFW revised these to reflect a non-regulatory, collaborative approach to the implementation of conservation actions; MDIFW deleted several actions.
6. Additional prioritization is necessary among the conservation actions (Programmatic Action 1, Section 7/8.5 and Programmatic Action 9, Elements 5/6).
7. The Action Plan should be applicable to all state lands, not just MDIFW's, e.g., the Bureau of Parks and Lands is preparing an integrated resource plan and there is an opportunity to integrate the Action Plan. MDIFW expanded the appropriate conservation actions to include all public lands.
8. MDIFW should establish a post-Plan landowners' committee and charge it with preparing a streamlined Action-Plan-implementation document for landowners similar to BMP manuals. The manual would explain how landowners can engage with the Action Plan, especially smaller landowners in southern Maine. There is also a need for a similar stream-lined Action Plan document for the general public. (Programmatic Actions 1 and 2, Section 7/8.5).
9. The post-Plan landowners' committee should explore the use of short-term easements to achieve habitat conservation for SGCN (Programmatic Action 1, Section 7/8.5 and TW Theme 2, Table 4-20, Element 4).
10. The Plan should contain more discussion of nongame funding and its necessity to further implement the Plan (Programmatic Action 1, Section 7/8.5 and Programmatic Actions 4 and 6, Element 4). Maine TNC said that it would be interested in pursuing additional Action Plan related positions at MDIFW (Programmatic Action 6, Element 4). The group also suggested seeking legislative support to acquire funding for landowners to implement conservation actions identified in the Action Plan, as well as funding to implement several projects identified in the Plan (Programmatic Action 5, Section 7/8.5).
11. SWOAM volunteered to assist with Action Plan outreach to landowners by facilitating training and technical outreach to landowners (Programmatic Actions 1 and 2, Section 7/8.5). Landowners suggested that MDIFW provide Action Plan outreach and technical assistance to Maine Forest Service (MFS) and consulting foresters. They felt there would be public support to fund additional state agency staff to provide this outreach; they expressed interest in pursuing additional Plan-related positions at MDIFW (Programmatic Action 6, Element 4).
12. MDIFW Regional Biologists should begin providing Action Plan advice to targeted landowners. MDIFW will implement this through Beginning with Habitat or related outreach programs (Programmatic Actions 1 and 2, Section 7/8.5).

MDIFW received comments from the Director of the Maine Forest Service (MFS). MFS recommended that the stressor category "Logging and Wood Harvesting" be replaced with "Forest Conversion." MFS offered that the key indicators of forest productivity continue to increase or have stabilized at acceptable levels and that the bigger threat to SGCN and their

habitat comes from turning forest into non-forest, particularly when the transformation is permanent. MDIFW concurs that permanent habitat loss poses greater risks to SGCN and their habitat than forest management does; however, the stressor category 'Logging and Wood Harvesting' is a term-of-art employed in the threat lexicon developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The 13 Northeastern states, including Maine, have agreed to use the IUCN lexicon in their Wildlife Action Plans as a standardized means to present a common stressor assessment for the Northeast. Maine's Action Plan will retain the threat category 'Logging and Wood Harvesting,' while recognizing that forest conversion is a greater stressor for most SGCN.

MFS commented that it did not support draft Action 42: Promote greater MDIFW involvement with forest certification to help support conservation/management of SGCN habitats in northern forests and swamps. It predicted that landowner concerns about government agencies inserting themselves into the certification process would deter landowner participation. MDIFW did not desire to insert itself into the private, voluntary interactions between a landowner and a certification system. Rather, the action sought the collaborative integration of SGCN conservation practices into the broad process of forest certification. MDIFW clarified draft Action 42: MDIFW offer collaboration and technical expertise to forest certifications systems for a subset of applicable SGCN and their forest habitats (Table 4-16, Element 4).

MFS did not support draft Action 43: Provide opportunities for MDIFW participation in outcome-based forestry. It stated that private landowners voluntarily participate in Maine's outcome based forestry measure, the effort is guided by a technical panel appointed by the Governor, and a Certified Wildlife Biologist is a member of the panel. MFS commented that draft Action 43 would require a modification to state statute. MDIFW revised draft Action 43: MDIFW collaborate with forest landowners and managers to discuss options for voluntary integration of SGCN habitat conservation actions into outcome-based forestry practices (Table 4-16, Element 4).

MFS stated that draft Action 41: Provide opportunities for MDIFW's participation in Maine Forest Practices Act discussions and encourage outcome-based forestry for landscape scale habitat management, was unnecessary. Given the modifications to Actions 42 and 43, MDIFW deleted draft Action 41.

MFS commented that it, MDIFW, and MDMR collaboratively developed Standards for Placing Wood Into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries, also known as the Chop and Drop rule and asked why the Action Plan included draft Action 130: Encourage the addition of woody material and other natural instream habitat structures to streams and lakes that replace lost natural habitat complexity. MDIFW clarified Action 130: Encourage the implementation of the Standards for Placing Wood Into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries, also known as the Chop and Drop rule, to replace lost natural habitat structure in streams and lakes (Table 4-16, Element 4).

MFS noted that several draft conservation actions only addressed "Logging and Wood Harvesting" or "Roads and Railroads" as stressors to water quality and the integrity of riparian areas. MFS offered that the forestry community has made great strides in protecting water quality during all phases of forest management. Forest managers widely use the water-quality BMPs and the BMPs are highly effective. Forest managers also have made great strides in protecting the integrity of riparian areas. MFS concluded that non-forest uses pose a greater threat to water bodies and riparian forests. MDIFW reviewed draft conservation actions 81-83 and 131-147. MDIFW revised each draft conservation action, as necessary, to address all

applicable IUCN threat categories (Table 4-16, Element 4). MDIFW also revised draft Action 86: Assess the overall efficacy of the existing mechanisms (e.g., regulations, standards, BMPs) employed in riparian areas associated with headwaters and creeks at maintaining or enhancing water quality (Table 4-16, Element 4).

MFS noted that more needs to be done to reduce the set of conservation actions to a manageable number. The resources do not exist to carry out the number of actions proposed. The list of conservation actions and the entire Action Plan could be significantly narrowed in size and scope to make it a useful document and tool (Programmatic Action 1, Section 7/8.5; Programmatic Action 9, Elements 5/6; and Section 4.5.2, Element 4).

### **MDIFW Response to Comments Received**

All individuals and organizations who submitted comments received a general acknowledgement from MDIFW that it had received their comments, thanking them for their interest and input. MDIFW is preparing detailed written responses to select partners and individuals that submitted more substantive comments.

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## **7/8.5 PUBLIC AND PARTNER ENGAGEMENT DURING PLAN IMPLEMENTATIONS**

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The success of Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan depends on continued partner and public engagement during plan implementation. MDIFW and the Steering Committee identified 11 Programmatic Actions to help guide implementation and tracking of the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan (Table 4-21, Element 4). Programmatic actions are categorized as follows:

**Outreach and Engagement (Programmatic Actions 1-3):** Actions to inform and engage the public and partners on Action Plan accomplishments and opportunities for involvement.



Conservation Partner break-out session.  
© Mark Stadler

**Program 1:** Establish an Action Plan implementation committee comprised of conservation partners and agency staff to help guide implementation of the 2015 Action Plan (short-term).

As described in the beginning of this chapter, MDIFW coordinated closely with the SWAP Steering Committee during plan development. During the winter of 2015/2016, MDIFW will begin to transition this committee into an Action Plan Implementation Committee composed of interested Steering Committee members and other key partners. They will work with agency staff to help implement the 2015 Plan and address emerging issues. The Implementation Committee will meet at least annually with additional updates provided through email and phone conferences. Within the first year of Plan implementation, MDIFW will work with the Implementation Committee to develop a charter and to set goals and objectives for the group. MDIFW also will work with the Implementation Committee to establish several subcommittees (composed of agency staff, Implementation Committee

members, and other interested partners) to address specific implementation measures and technical needs, such as Programmatic Actions 2 and 5.

**Program 2:** Devise and implement outreach strategies, including periodic meetings, to inform and engage conservation partners and the general public on 2015 Action Plan information, accomplishments, and opportunities for involvement (mid-term).

MDIFW will work with the Implementation Committee and the Outreach Subcommittee (to be established) to develop and implement strategies that: 1) make the 2015 SWAP available to all users in accessible formats, and 2) foster partner and public engagement in the Plan. First, the committees will explore multiple approaches (suggested by partners during plan development) for accessing plan information including online links to SGCN ecology and conservation information, SGCN habitat management recommendations, SGCN distribution data, and information modules targeted to different user groups (e.g., private landowners, land trusts, municipalities) and regions (e.g., individual ecoregions or watersheds). MDIFW also is exploring options for making the 2015 Action Plan database accessible to the public. This relational database contains linked and searchable information for individual SGCN, including their SGCN qualification criteria, habitat and distribution information, threats, threats to associated habitats, conservation actions at both species-specific and habitat scales, and species-specific notes to aid in conservation efforts. MDIFW will work with the Implementation Committee and Outreach Subcommittee to guide development of these online and database tools as well as other formats for accessing plan information. In addition, MDIFW will continue to update the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan website and provide contact information.

To address the second task, MDIFW will work with the Implementation Committee and Outreach Subcommittee to generate materials (e.g., newsletters, blog posts, social media posts) and coordinate periodic events (e.g., annual meetings, trainings) to update partners on plan accomplishments and opportunities for involvement. MDIFW also plans to host periodic workshops with partners addressing their access to Plan information. Furthermore, MDIFW may establish a small grants program for partners implementing conservation actions (Programmatic Action 5). If implemented, this program likely will generate ongoing partner interest in the Action Plan through periodic requests for proposals (RFP) and award announcements.

**Program 3:** Develop a public survey of SWAP and non-game species awareness, concerns, and priorities (initial survey: short-term; second survey: long-term [tentative]).

In a recent survey, 95% of Mainers valued protection of wildlife for the enjoyment of people, but were largely unaware of how MDIFW is funded to accomplish this task (MDIFW 2010). Additional surveys also highlight the importance of Maine's wildlife resources to land-use decisions (Butler et al. 2014) and to the state's economy (Southwick Associates 2013). However, there is little information on Maine citizens' awareness of Action Plan and non-game species conservation. Public opinion surveys conducted in other states (e.g., Pennsylvania [Responsive Management 2014]) have shown increasing public concern for and awareness of non-game species. Soon, MDIFW will undertake a large-scale public survey to determine attitudes toward game and non-game conservation, management, and funding. Survey results will help guide MDIFW priorities and outreach approaches. This survey also provides a timely opportunity to highlight Maine's 2015 Action Plan and discuss options for establishing stable funding for wildlife conservation. MDIFW may also conduct a

second survey toward the end of Plan implementation to gauge the effectiveness of public outreach and education efforts developed as part of Programmatic Action 2.

**Funding and Tracking (Programmatic Actions 4-8):** Actions to bolster funding, capacity, and tracking of SGCN-related projects.

**Program 4:** This action supports efforts to establish stable state and federal funding sources for SGCN and habitat conservation. (Element 4)

**Program 5:** Consider establishing a competitive small grants program to make a portion of State Wildlife Grant (SWG) funds available to partners implementing priority actions identified in the 2015 Action Plan (mid-term).

MDIFW may establish a competitive grants program to make a small portion of SWG funds available to partners. This program has two major benefits: 1) awarded funds will help leverage partners' existing or new SGCN conservation efforts; and, 2) it encourages ongoing partner involvement in the Action Plan and communication with MDIFW through periodic RFPs and reporting requirements. A small grants program also addresses conservation partner requests for greater access to SWG funds.

To establish a small grants program, MDIFW must first address several logistical and grant administration needs. Because SWG funds are limited, MDIFW will work with partners to identify the minimum award amount necessary to leverage matching funds or seed money for SGCN conservation projects. If this amount is feasible and does not compromise ongoing SWG-funded projects and personnel, MDIFW will work with the Implementation Committee to develop a transparent grant advertising, selection, and reporting process.

**Program 6:** This action focuses on increasing long-term agency staffing and capacity needs for Action Plan implementation. (Element 4)

**Program 7:** Annually compile agency and partner expenditures and seek additional match opportunities to maximize efficiency and impact of 2015 Action Plan implementation (short-term). (Elements 5-6)

**Program 8:** Track SWAP conservation action implementation accomplishments by agencies and partners (short-term). (Elements 5-6)

**Action Development (Programmatic Action 9):** This action relates to creating SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Results-oriented, and Time-bound) objectives for high priority SGCN and habitat conservation actions. (Element 4)

**Regional Partnerships (Programmatic Actions 10-11):** These actions address continued MDIFW and partner involvement in existing conservation efforts.

**Program 10:** This action supports efforts to identify new and update existing SGCN Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs). (Element 4)

**Program 11:** This action supports MDIFW and partner participation in the Northeast Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) Grant Program. (Element 4)

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## 7/8.6 LITERATURE CITED AND REFERENCES

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## 7/8.7 APPENDICES

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### Appendix 7/8-1. Operational Charter.

**2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan  
Conservation Partners / Steering Committee / Subcommittees  
Operational Charter  
October 2015**

#### 1. Introduction

Congress instituted the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program in 2001, which provides wildlife conservation funds to the 50 states. States use these to develop and implement management programs that benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. Since inception of the SWG program, Maine has received close to \$8 million in SWG funding and accomplished over 50 research, management, and conservation projects. To receive SWG funding, Maine must have a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy, now commonly known as a state wildlife action plan (the plan). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved Maine's first plan in 2005. The plan identified species and habitats in greatest conservation need, significant threats to wildlife and habitat, and the conservation actions required to prevent endangered species listing and to spur the recovery of endangered species. <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/wap.html>

The SWG program requires that Maine update its plan by October 2015 and forward it to the USFWS for review and approval. The plan must be developed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) in collaboration with Maine citizens and wildlife conservation partners. Partners are private landowners, federal and state agencies, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations, and academicians that have a role in the conservation of Maine's wildlife and habitat. MDIFW invited 73 partners to participate. Over the next 12 months, partners will collaboratively develop Maine's 2015 plan. MDIFW and partners will also solicit and consider advice and recommendations from the public. Following plan approval by the USFWS, MDIFW and partners together will implement the plan.

#### 2. Statement of Purpose: Maine's Wildlife Action Plan

Maine's plan embodies the shared vision of MDIFW, its conservation partners, and the public. It is Maine's blueprint for achieving our common goal of conserving healthy wildlife populations. The plan

- articulates clear conservation goals and defines the actions required to best conserve species at risk, manage habitats, prevent the listing of rare and imperiled species, and keep common species common,
- outlines strategies to perpetuate regional and state biodiversity,
- provides opportunities for partners to lead in its implementation,
- adapts to changing environmental conditions affecting fish, wildlife, and habitat, and
- establishes efficient and effective stewardship of Maine's natural heritage that is responsive to the public trust and to private landowner rights.

### 3. Guiding Principles

As it develops the 2015 plan, the partners will ensure that the plan

- is built on a foundation of sound scientific principles and is feasible,
- recognizes that the public has a genuine stake in the plan -- wildlife belongs to the public and is held in the public trust,
- is developed in an open, transparent, and inclusive process that encourages and facilitates the involvement of all partners,
- respects property rights and recognizes that landowner participation is critical for the successful development and implementation of the plan,
- provides opportunities for conservation actions by multiple partners and partnerships across the state,
- develops and implements conservation actions that are voluntary, based on incentives rather than constraints,
- does not rely solely on land acquisition, but also incorporates conservation actions on private land,
- identifies opportunities for conservation and management of landscapes, watersheds, and habitats that address the needs of multiple species, wherever possible, especially in light of climate change, and
- prioritizes actions for implementation by species and habitat.

### 4. Operational Guidance for Conservation Partners, Including the Steering Committee (5.2) and Subcommittees (5.3)

Meetings: MDIFW recognizes that travel expenses impinge upon the budgets of state, federal, tribal, and non-governmental organizations. It will keep the number of meetings to the minimum required to develop an approvable plan.

Partners will be notified of meeting dates at least 30 days in advance.

MDIFW will post all documents distributed at partner meetings or by email or as follow-up to partner meetings on the action plan website.

<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/MWAP2015.html>

Timelines: Partners have the responsibility to move the process forward. MDIFW and partners will establish timelines to ensure completion of the plan on time. Each will adhere to established timelines for submittal of requested materials and information and for the completion of assigned tasks.

Mutual Respect and Trust: the strength of the partners is their diverse knowledge and experience. Partners will base their work upon collective contributions and expect others to abide by the following

- encourage participation by all partners,
- avoid hidden agendas and to be open about potential conflicts of interests,
- ensure all partners are respected and treated fairly, respect all contributions and ideas, and direct critiques at the idea not the person,
- avoid speaking while others are speaking, avoid side-bar conversations, wait until there is an appropriate time to provide your comment,

- keep to the topic,
- avoid creating distractions, and
- place cell phones on silent mode, if receiving a call, minimize disruption to the group.

Decision-making: Unanimous consensus is the goal, but not a requirement. Partners represent the diverse interests of their agencies and organizations. It may be possible that all do not fully agree on specific aspects of the update. MDIFW and partners will strive to be open-minded and creative. As differences arise, partners will listen to other views and rationale. Partners will make decisions based on the general “modified consensus” of those present (i.e., if a partner disagrees with the rest of the group, he can nevertheless “live with” the decision and will not oppose the decision or stand in the way of moving it forward.)

MDIFW will resolve all decisions that do not receive this minimal level of support and will provide a written explanation for its decision to the partners. MDIFW will post the explanation on the action plan website; the explanation will note the degree of consensus reached by partners before the decision was handed to MDIFW for resolution.

Decisions reached by conservation partners are advisory and represent recommendations to MDIFW. If MDIFW decides not to accept a recommendation from the conservation partners, it will provide a written explanation for its decision and post the explanation on the action plan website.

Concurrence: Partners agree to participate as specified in this charter.

Travel Expenses: Partners are responsible for their travel expenses.

Partner funding: Participation will not provide an advantage in securing SWG funds.

Copyrighted or Restricted Material: All such material must be acknowledged and properly referenced.

Acknowledgement: The 2015 plan will acknowledge and recognize the contributions of participating partners and their organizations.

## 5. Process Structure

### 5.1 Conservation partners

Conservation partners will develop the 2015 action plan in collaboration with MDIFW and Maine citizens.

MDIFW invited 73 partners to participate in the development of the 2015 action plan. Partners are private landowners, federal and state agencies, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations, and academicians that have a role in the conservation of Maine's wildlife and habitat.

### 5.2 Steering Committee

The steering committee (committee) will guide the development of the action plan.

MDIFW assembled a steering committee from the ranks of the conservation partners. Membership was by invitation. Committee members are broadly representative of key conservation partners. The committee may recommend additional members, but their participation must be approved by MDIFW. The committee is limited to no more than fifteen members.

MDIFW recognize that members have obligations to their agency or organization. MDIFW will strive to minimize members' time commitment; however, it is expected that those who agree to participate will endeavor to attend meetings. The committee may meet either in person or by conference call.

### 5.2.1. Steering Committee Function

The steering committee

- serves as the initial sounding board for MDIFW on both overall process and initial plan components and drafts,
- provides feedback to MDIFW between partner meetings on time-sensitive issues involving the plan update,
- establishes the timeline for the plan update and ensures that the timeline is met, and
- ensures that the process follows the charter's statement of purpose (2.) and guiding principles (3.).

Members present during committee meetings or conference calls are encouraged to participate fully. Not all members may be able to attend and participate in all discussions. As decisions are made or conclusions reached, those not present agree to move forward as a team and not to retrace discussions or decisions.

Members will strive to attend conservation partner meetings.

The committee may designate and establish subcommittees.

The committee may ask partners or its members to develop new materials, provide existing resources, gather information, or complete tasks necessary to the update. The committee will schedule dates when tasks are to be completed by consent of the members present. Members will share tasks and responsibilities by

- volunteering for tasks, especially those for which they have special expertise or interests,
- providing information that can fill data gaps and advance ideas, and
- keeping current with the update, even if unable to attend all discussions.

### 5.3. Subcommittees

The committee may designate and establish subcommittees.

Prior to the formation of the steering committee, MDIFW established a Public Communications and Outreach Committee and MDIFW / Maine Natural Areas

Program established a Focus Area Review Committee. Both are now considered subcommittees functioning under the guidance of the steering committee.

The committee will designate individuals to chair each subcommittee. Subcommittees must be chaired by a partner or MDIFW, but subcommittee members may be from outside the participating partners.

Subcommittee chairs report to the committee. Chairs will ensure that steering committee members receive information about the activities of their subcommittee, such as minutes and copies of pertinent correspondence.

Subcommittee chairs are responsible for coordinating their meetings and conference calls.

Subcommittees dissolve when they have accomplished their designated purpose.

## 6. Evaluation

To be successful, the steering committee and partners must complete the plan update, accomplishing the requirements and objectives specified by the USFWS, prior to October 2015. It is important that committee members and partners are committed to success. The committee must ensure that the plan update remains on schedule and meets deadlines.

Previous sections of the charter guide the deliberations of partners and the committee, and therefore, provide a basis to gauge success. The committee will evaluate periodically the progress of the action plan update and adherence to the requirements of the charter. The committee will conduct the evaluation by a method that it deems appropriate. The committee will use the following attributes to evaluate success.

**Participation:** MDIFW staff, partners, and committee members are engaged in the plan update; they volunteer to assist with tasks, especially those for which they have special expertise or interest; they are proactive in providing information that fills data gaps and advances ideas; and they keep current with the planning process, even if they are unable to participate in all discussions.

**Schedules:** MDIFW staff, partners, and committee members develop new materials, provide existing resources, gather information, or complete other necessary tasks as requested and scheduled.

**Outreach:** Partners and committee members engage the members of their organizations in the plan update, using their outreach mechanisms to inform their members and to solicit comment.

MDIFW provides regular updates to the steering committee and partners and provides opportunities for broad participation by other organizations and citizens.

**Subcommittees:** Subcommittee chairs conduct meetings and accomplish assigned tasks as scheduled, report to the committee, and ensure that the committee is fully informed of its activities.

**Appendix 7/8-2.** Agendas – Conservation Partner Meetings.



## 2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan

### Update Committee - Meeting #1

July 8, 2014

Location: Pineland Farms, New Gloucester

#### Meeting Purpose

- Provide background on State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program
- Provide overview of SWG accomplishments since 2005
- Review and discuss the process used to develop Maine's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list
- Introduce Habitat and Threat classification systems
- Discuss Public Communication plan

#### Meeting Agenda

9:00 Welcome and logistics

9:30 Background

- State Wildlife Grants
- State Wildlife Action Plans
- 2005 Maine Wildlife Action Plan
  - Maine's State Wildlife Grant accomplishments

10:15 Elements of Wildlife Action Plans

10:45 Break

11:00 Role of Conservation Partners in Wildlife Action Plans

11:15 Process used to develop Maine's *Species of Greatest Conservation Need* list

- Process and criteria
- Overview
  - Birds
  - Fish
  - Invertebrates
  - Mammals
  - Reptiles and amphibians

12:00 Lunch - provided

- 1:00 Break-out group review of SGCN list and discussion
- Birds
  - Fish
  - Invertebrates
  - Mammals
  - Reptiles and amphibians
- 1:45 Reconvene for break-out group reports
- Birds
  - Fish
  - Invertebrates
  - Mammals
  - Reptiles and amphibians
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Introduction of Element 2: Habitats
- 3:45 Introduction of Element 3: Threats
- 4:15 Public Communication Plan
- 4:45 Group Discussion
- 5:00 Adjourn



## 2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan

### Update Committee - Meeting #2

September 30, 2014

Location: Maple Hill Farm, Hallowell

#### Meeting Objectives

- Update partners on action plan activity since July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Finalize Maine's list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need [SGCN] Incorporating marine fauna into the action plan
- Review the process to develop SGCN habitat associations
- Introduce proposed approach for assessing "stressors" affecting SGCN and their habitats

#### Meeting Agenda

8:30 Gathering / coffee available

9:00 Welcome

- Introductions
- Volunteer time
- Review of day's agenda
  - Meeting objectives

9:15 Brief re-introduction to state wildlife action plans and state wildlife grants.

- SWG and SWAP: why we are here
- Active stakeholder and working groups
  - Conservation partners
  - Steering committee
  - Public outreach committee
  - Focus Areas update committee
- Meeting with landowners

9:45 Finalizing Maine's list of species of greatest conservation need

- Peer review process – comments offered by taxa "specialists" and conservation partners
- Finalizing the criteria used to identify SGCN and the SGCN list
- Questions, discussios

10:15 Marine fauna and habitat, Dept. of Marine Resources

10:45 Break

- 11:00 Wildlife action plan habitats
- The role of SGCN habitat associations in the action plan update
  - System / process / criteria used to classify Maine's wildlife habitats
  - System / process / criteria used to identify SGCN habitats associations
  - Overview: results, summary analysis
    - Habitat types
    - Habitats used by SGCN
    - Preliminary conservation land "gaps" analysis
    - Habitat distribution and location of SGCN habitats
  - Questions, discussion
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Break-out group review of habitat classification and SGCN habitat associations
- Ecosystem groups
    - Wetlands
    - Coastal/marine
    - Freshwater aquatic
    - Terrestrial
  - Tasks
    - Review Northeast habitat classification system by ecosystem group
    - Review SGCN habitat associations
    - Identify habitat associations not captured by classification system
    - Discuss aggregation / presentation of SGCN and habitat analysis: geopolitical, biophysical ecoregions, HUC watersheds, other
    - Discuss approaches to identify highest priority habitats for conservation actions
    - Discuss need to develop "user friendly" habitat lexicon
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Reconvene for break-out group reports
- Wetlands coastal /
  - Marine freshwater
  - Aquatic terrestrial
- 3:45 Proposed approach for assessing "stressors" affecting SGCN and their habitats
- October 30, 2014 conservation partner meeting
- 4:00 Closing discussion
- 4:15 Adjourn



## 2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan

### Update Committee - Meeting #3

November 18, 2014

Location: Spectacular Event Center, Bangor

#### Meeting Objectives

- Update partners on action plan activity since September 30 meeting
- Final consideration and wrap-up of SGCN habitat associations, element 2
- Introduction to criteria used to assess SGCN and habitat stressors, element 3
- Review, discuss criteria for stressor assessment: priority 1 SGCN and habitats
- Introduce ideas for prioritizing 1) habitats and 2) habitat-stressors for conservation action.

#### Meeting Agenda

8:30 Gathering / coffee available

9:00 Welcome / Judy

- Activity since 09/30 partner meeting / Mark
- Steering committee / October 16 meeting
  - Additions to steering committee
  - Flora and Maine action plan
  - Operational charter
- Planning for November 18 partner meeting
- Focus area review subcommittee

9:15 Public outreach and communications, element 8 / Amanda

9:35 Marine fauna and habitat, Dept. of Marine Resources / Claire

- Marine SGCN list
- Marine habitat classification
- Marine SGCN habitat associations

10:15 Final consideration and wrap-up of SGCN habitat associations, element 2 / Andy

- Brief review of SGCN-habitat associations
  - System / process / criteria used to classify Maine's wildlife habitats
  - System / process / criteria used to identify SGCN habitats associations
- Discuss approaches to SGCN distributions
- Questions, discussion

10:45 Break

- 11:00 Introduction to the assessment of stressors affecting SGCN and their habitats, element 3 / Nate
- IUCN classification system
  - Process and criteria used to identify priority 1 SGCN stressors
  - Process and criteria used to identify habitat stressors
  - Questions, discussion
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Break-out group logistics and expectations / Amanda
- 1:05 Break-out group discussion: SGCN priority 1 stressor assessment criteria with focus on stresses that are not related to habitat. The marine group will also discuss the marine SGCN list and habitat associations.
- Taxa groups
    - Birds
    - Fish
    - Invertebrates
    - Mammals and Reptiles
    - Marine
  - Tasks
    - Review and discuss SGCN priority 1 stressor assessment
    - Identify errors of inclusion or exclusion
    - Discuss approaches for assigning stressors to SGCN priority 2 and 3
- 2:00 Move to next break-out group
- 2:05 Break-out group discussion: habitat stressor assessment
- Ecosystem groups
    - Wetlands
    - Coastal/marine
    - Freshwater aquatic
    - Terrestrial
  - Tasks
    - Review and discuss the process and criteria used to assess habitat stressors
    - Identify errors of inclusion or exclusion
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Reconvene for break-out group reports / Mark
- SGCN priority 1
    - Birds
    - Fish
    - Invertebrates
    - Mammals and Reptiles
    - Marine
  - Habitats
    - Wetlands
    - Coastal / marine
    - Freshwater aquatic

- Terrestrial

3:45 Next meeting: January 8, 2015

Options that the partners may use to identify and prioritize habitats and habitat-stressors for conservation action / Phillip, Andy, Nate, Charlie

4:15 Wrap-up / Mark

4:30 Adjourn



## 2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan

### Update Committee - Meeting #4

January 20, 2015

Location: Maple Hill Farm, Hallowell

#### Meeting Objectives

- Overview of public outreach and communication, element 8
- Update on the process for identifying distribution of SGCN, element 1
- Overview of the threat assessment process and results, element 3
- Prioritization of SGCN habitats, element 2
- Habitat prioritization: partner review and feedback
  - Introduction to conservation actions, element 4

#### Meeting Agenda

Morning sessions will provide time for floor discussion.

8:30 Check-in, coffee and tea available

9:00 Welcome

9:15 Overview of public outreach and communication, element 8

- Stakeholders, targeted surveys, focus groups, and analysis.

10:15 Update on the process for identifying distribution of SGCN, element 1

10:45 Break

11:00 Overview of the threat assessment process and results, element 3

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Prioritization of SGCN habitats, element 2 [results of habitat prioritization options]

1:15 Break-out groups

- Habitat prioritization: partner review and feedback
  - Coastal / marine
  - Wetlands
  - Freshwater / aquatics
  - Terrestrial
  - SGCN distribution [tentative]

- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Break-out group reports
- 3:15 Introduction to conservation actions, element 4
- Options for organizing sub-committees to develop conservation actions
  - Process that sub-committees will use to develop conservation actions
- 3:45 Wrap-up thoughts, suggestions Where are we in the process Closing comments from the floor
- Select date of next partner meeting – tentatively week of 02/09/2015
- 4:00 Adjourn



## 2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan

### Update Committee - Meeting #5

June 16, 2015

Location: Maple Hill Farm, Hallowell

#### Meeting Objectives

- Partner review of 2015 conservation actions:
  - Habitat conservation actions
  - SGCN conservation actions
  - Programmatic conservation actions
- Partner tasks:
  - Review and revise suite of proposed conservation actions
  - Identify partnerships that will bolster action implementation and success
  - Identify preferences for access to plan information and its format
  - Provide input regarding overall satisfaction with identified conservation actions
  - Partner discussion topics:
    - Programmatic conservation actions
- A process outlining considerations to be used when prioritizing conservation actions for Maine's 2015 WAP
- Continuing partner involvement

#### Meeting Agenda

- 8:30 Gathering / coffee available
- 9:00 Welcome / Judy
- 9:15 Accomplishments since January 20<sup>th</sup> partner meeting / Mark
- 9:30 Habitat conservation actions / Amanda
- 10:00 Break-out group logistics and expectations / Amanda
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Break-out group discussion: review habitat conservation actions
- Ecosystem groups
    - Terrestrial / wetland
    - Coastal / marine
    - Freshwater / aquatic
  - Task
    - Review and revise suite of proposed conservation actions

- Identify partnerships that will bolster action implementation and success
  - Identify preferences for access to plan information and its format
  - Provide input regarding overall satisfaction with identified conservation actions
- 11:30 Reconvene for break-out group reports / Amanda
- Habitats
    - Terrestrial / wetland
    - Coastal / marine
    - Freshwater / aquatic
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:30 SGCN conservation actions / Nate
- 1:00 Break-out group logistics and expectations / Nate
- 1:15 Break-out group discussion: review SGCN conservation actions
- Taxa groups
    - Bird
    - Inland Fish and Mammals
    - Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates
    - Marine
  - Tasks
    - Review and revise suite of proposed conservation actions
    - Identify partnerships that will bolster action implementation and success
    - Identify preferences for access to plan information and its format
    - Provide input regarding overall satisfaction with identified conservation actions
- 2:15 Reconvene for break-out group reports / Nate
- Taxa groups
    - Bird
    - Inland Fish and Mammals
    - Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates
    - Marine
- 2:45 Break: partner appreciation / Andy, Amanda, Nate
- 3:00 Programmatic conservation actions / Amanda, Nate
- 3:45 Discussion: a process outlining considerations to be used when prioritizing conservation actions for Maine's 2015 WAP / Phillip, Barbara Vickery
- 4:15 Next steps in the development of the 2015 action plan / Mark
- 1<sup>st</sup> draft
  - Public comment period
  - Respond to public comments
  - Final draft
  - Submit Maine's plan to USFWS for review

4:30 Continue partner involvement / Charlie

- Maine Wildlife Coalition / Teaming with Wildlife

4:45 Adjourn

**Appendix 7/8-3.** Frequently Asked Questions about Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan.

1. What is the plan for?
2. Who wrote the plan?
3. Are you proposing new regulations?
4. Why is the plan so long?
5. How was the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list developed?
6. How are SGCN different from Threatened and Endangered (T/E) Species?
7. Where can I find the list of SGCN?
8. Don't some of these species already have management plans?
9. Where can I find information on what is affecting SGCN and their habitats ('stressors')?
10. Where do the stressor names come from?
11. Don't certain activities classified as 'stressors' sometimes benefit wildlife and habitats?
12. Where can I find information on the actions being proposed to prevent future species and habitat declines?
13. Who can I contact for more information on the draft plan?
14. When will the final plan be completed?
15. How can I get involved?

1. What is the plan for?

Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan is a shared vision for our state that identifies the voluntary steps needed to conserve priority wildlife species and habitats through public awareness and partnerships. The plan identifies Maine's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), the habitats where SGCN are found, and the recommended 'conservation actions' to help prevent further declines in species and habitats over the next ten years. The 2015 plan also qualifies Maine to receive funds for wildlife conservation projects from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>

2. Who wrote the plan?

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), and Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) wrote the plan with input from over 100 'conservation partner' groups representing many interests including private landowners, conservation organizations, sporting groups, scientists, and governmental agencies. The list of invited conservation partners begins on page 15 here:

[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP\\_Elements7and8\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP_Elements7and8_DRAFT.pdf)

3. Are you proposing new regulations?

No! Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan is strictly non-regulatory. All conservation actions included in the plan are based on voluntary efforts.

4. Why is the plan so long?

In order to be approved by USFWS, Wildlife Action Plans must address eight elements, described here beginning on page 4:

[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP\\_Introduction\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP_Introduction_DRAFT.pdf)

The 2015 plan provides a comprehensive proposal for how Maine will address each of these elements. We are required to post the entire plan for public review so that everyone has access to all the available plan information. Once the final plan is completed in Fall 2015, MDIFW and conservation partners will develop additional user-friendly ways to search and access plan information. Maine's 2015 plan is much shorter than the original 2005 plan, which was over 2000 pages long. For the 2015 plan, Maine eliminated many pages of text and condensed much of the SGCN, habitat, stressor, and conservation action information into tables.

5. How was the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list developed?

MDIFW biologists, with review and cooperation from conservation partners and species experts, developed conservation criteria for designating Maine's eligible SGCN. For each species in Maine, MDIFW and partners reviewed the best available science to determine if the SGCN criteria were met. If so, the species was added to the list of SGCN at one of three priority levels (1=critical; 2=high; 3=moderate) depending on which and how many criteria were met. The primary themes for SGCN prioritization include risk of extirpation, population trend, endemism, and regional conservation concerns. Secondary themes for SGCN prioritization include climate change vulnerability, survey knowledge, and indigenous cultural significance. Information on the SGCN criteria can be found here beginning on page 25:

[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP\\_Element1\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP_Element1_DRAFT.pdf)

6. How are SGCN different from Threatened and Endangered (T/E) Species?

SGCN are different from T/E species in several ways. First, T/E species are eligible for regulation under the Maine and/or Federal Endangered Species Acts (ESA). Some activities that affect these species or habitats also are potentially regulated. In contrast, SGCN species are not regulated. Many state and federal T/E species also qualify for SGCN status; but, this designation does not add any additional regulations. There are many more SGCN than there are listed T/E species. For example, there are 51 T/E species listed under Maine's ESA, but there are 376 SGCN in Maine's 2015 Action Plan. By designating a species as SGCN now, we can take preventative steps to avoid the need for listing the species in the future under the State or Federal ESA.

7. Where can I find the list of SGCN?

The list of SGCN begins on page 31 here:

[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP\\_Element1\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP_Element1_DRAFT.pdf)

SGCN are organized by groups (e.g., birds, mammals, amphibians, etc.); click on each species to view a report that details how the species qualified as SGCN, associated habitats, distribution range in Maine, stressors affecting the species and its habitats, and conservation actions proposed to prevent future declines over the next ten years.

8. Don't some of these species already have management plans?

Yes. The 2015 Wildlife Action Plan is not intended to replace existing management plans, but rather to provide additional resources for ongoing and new SGCN conservation efforts.

9. Where can I find information on what is affecting SGCN and their habitats ('stressors')? Information on SGCN and habitat stressors can be found here:  
[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP\\_Element3\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP_Element3_DRAFT.pdf)

10. Where do the stressor names come from?

As with most other states in the Northeast, we identified stressors using the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Threat Classification Scheme. This system provides standard terms that allow states to 'speak the same language' when describing common stressors. More information can be found here, beginning on page 4:  
[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP\\_Element3\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP_Element3_DRAFT.pdf)

11. Don't certain activities classified as 'stressors' sometimes benefit wildlife and habitats?

Yes, some 'stressors' may also have positive effects on wildlife and habitats. For example, aquaculture activities like shellfish seeding can help improve water quality and help form substrate for important habitats like eelgrass. Wood harvesting and agricultural activities can benefit certain SGCN by creating or maintaining wildlife habitat. We summarized some of these beneficial effects beginning on page 6 in Element 3:  
[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP\\_Element3\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP_Element3_DRAFT.pdf)

12. Where can I find information on the actions being proposed to prevent future species and habitat declines?

Information on conservation actions can be found here:  
[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP\\_Element4\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP_Element4_DRAFT.pdf)

This chapter also contains information on how MDIFW and conservation partners will prioritize and implement these actions over the next ten years.

13. Who can I contact for more information on the draft plan?

For more information or to submit comments, please contact:

Becky Orff at: [becky.orff@maine.gov](mailto:becky.orff@maine.gov)

OR

SWAP  
 Wildlife Division  
 Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
 284 State St. #41  
 Augusta, ME 04333

Public comments will be accepted through August 12, 2015.

14. When will the final plan be completed?

We must submit the plan to USFWS by October 1, 2015.

15. How can I get involved?

Completing the 2015 plan is just the first step in the next ten years of wildlife conservation. The success of Maine's 2015 Action Plan relies on your participation and partnership. The plan presents actions ranging from local, SGCN-specific efforts to those with a more regional focus. We hope you will see a role for yourself or your organization in these actions.

If you belong to one of the conservation partner organizations that participated in writing the 2015 plan (see page 15, [http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP\\_Elements7and8\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/2015MaineSWAP_Elements7and8_DRAFT.pdf)), you may wish to contact your local chapter or media representative for more information. You also may contact members of the MDIFW 2015 Action Plan Coordination Team at [mainewildlifeactionplan@gmail.com](mailto:mainewildlifeactionplan@gmail.com).

As the plan is implemented, we hope to provide ongoing workshops and informational sessions on accessing and using plan information. Please contact us ([mainewildlifeactionplan@gmail.com](mailto:mainewildlifeactionplan@gmail.com)) if your group is interested in having one of these sessions.