

PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES FOR MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD MANAGEMENT IN MAINE

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September 13, 2000

Problem 1: Implementation of an interim system for inventorying and monitoring shorebird populations in Maine would require additional funding and a considerable amount of Department staff time to develop and coordinate the program.

Strategy 1.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to ensure progress toward implementation of a system for inventorying and monitoring shorebird populations in Maine. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Strategy 1.2: Work with partners and volunteers to implement an interim system for inventorying and monitoring shorebird populations in Maine.

Problem 2: Implementation of a system for inventorying and monitoring shorebird populations in Maine is pending development of a national monitoring program by the U.S. Shorebird Research and Monitoring Working Group. The development of a long-term national monitoring program is hampered by the lack of systematic research into factors that affect our ability to monitor over 30 different shorebird species. This effort may not be completed by 2005.

Strategy 2.1: Support the U.S. Shorebird Research and Monitoring Working Group's efforts by sharing knowledge and data collected in Maine on local populations and habitats.

Problem 3: Lack of data on status of wintering shorebird populations and their habitats in Maine.

Strategy 3.1: Develop and implement standardized survey methodology to collect data on wintering shorebird populations.

Problem 4: Prioritization by level of threat and species importance would require significant Department staff time for data analysis and may require more data on certain species and/or their habitats where information is lacking.

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Strategy 4.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to ensure progress toward acquiring the data necessary to prioritize species by level of threat and species importance. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Problem 5: Protection of highest priority Areas of Shorebird Management Concern potentially could result in restricted land uses and activities on some private land that may result in conflicts between resource managers and landowners.

Strategy 5.1: Establish landowner agreements or conservation easements.

Strategy 5.2: Implement Outreach Objectives.

Problem 6: Protection of 20% of the highest priority Areas of Shorebird Management Concern within each Shorebird Management Unit may not be possible without regulation.

Strategy 6.1: Implement Significant Wildlife Habitat under The Natural Resources Protection Act.

Problem 7: To develop objectives for maintaining or enhancing willets and American oystercatchers in Maine will require the development of an assessment, with goals and objectives for each species. This effort will require a considerable financial and personnel commitment from the department.

Strategy 7.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to ensure progress toward maintaining or enhancing willets and American oystercatchers in Maine. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Problem 8: Identification and prioritization of nesting habitats to identify 5 nesting sites for protection by 2005, and an additional 20 nesting sites by 2015, will require significant Department staff time for data analysis and may require more data on certain species and/or their habitats where information is lacking.

Strategy 8.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to acquire the data necessary to identify and prioritize nesting sites for protection. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not

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feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Problem 9: Protection of priority nesting sites potentially could result in restricted land uses and activities on some private land that may result in conflicts between resource managers and landowners.

Strategy 9.1: Establish landowner agreements or conservation easements.

Strategy 9.2: Implement Outreach Objectives.

Problem 10: Development and implementation of an outreach plan to increase awareness and promote stewardship of migratory shorebirds and their habitats will require substantial staff time from the Wildlife Resource Assessment Section, Regional Biologists, and the Division of Information and Education.

Strategy 10.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to ensure progress toward developing an outreach plan. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Strategy 10.2: Work with partners to develop and implement an outreach plan.

Problem 11: Development and implementation of a landowner assistance and recognition program will require substantial staff time from the Wildlife Resource Assessment Section, Regional Biologists, and the Division of Information and Education.

Strategy 11.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources in order to develop a landowner assistance and recognition program. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Strategy 11.2: Work with partners to develop and implement a landowner assistance and recognition program.