



Birds

Common Loon

Gavia immer

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Birds (*Aves*)

Order: Loons (*Gaviiformes*)

Family: Loons (*Gaviidae*)

General comments:

Common Loons are large, diving waterbirds with rounded heads and dagger-like bills showing striking black and white plumage during the summer that fades to gray in the winter. In Maine they breed on most lakes over 30 acres that have abundant prey fish, clear water, and islands, coves, or adjacent wetland areas for nesting. They winter up and down the Maine coast within a few miles of shore. They can't walk well on land so they must build their nests close to the water's edge, making their nests vulnerable to changes in water levels, wave action, and human disturbance. Their use of well-placed artificial nesting platforms can help mitigate these threats. Maine's loon population is considered stable, but that stability is threatened by ongoing stressors including mercury toxicity, shoreline habitat loss, water level fluctuations, increasing predation by bald eagles, boat strikes, boat wakes, emerging parasites and diseases, and climate change. While mortality from lead fishing tackle has decreased with targeted legislation, this threat has not been entirely eliminated.

Species Conservation Range Maps:

Town Map: [Gavia immer_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Gavia immer_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

High Climate Change Vulnerability:	Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: Medium, Reviewers: 5
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Habitat Associations:

- Formation:** Freshwater Aquatic

- Macrogroup:** Lentic

- Macrogroup:** Lotic

- Formation:** Freshwater Marsh

- Macrogroup:** Eastern North American Marsh, Wet Meadow & Shrubland

- Macrogroup:** Modified-Managed Marsh

- Formation:** Grassland & Shrubland

- Macrogroup:** North American Freshwater Coastal Beach & Rocky Shore

- Formation:** Intertidal

- Macrogroup:** Intertidal Water Column



Common Loon *Gavia immer*

Priority 3 SGCN

Formation: Subtidal

Macrogroup: Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)

Threats

No Threats Currently Assigned to Common Loon or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Common Loon or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, threats, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work