

PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES FOR HARLEQUIN DUCK MANAGEMENT IN MAINE

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Problem 1: The Department's current financial and personnel support is inadequate to implement monitoring, research, and outreach programs for wintering Harlequin Ducks in Maine.

Strategy 1.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to implement monitoring, research, and outreach programs for wintering Harlequin Ducks 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: Coordinate research, monitoring, and outreach efforts with the Harlequin Recovery Team.

Strategy 1.3: Support efforts of other conservation agencies and organizations by sharing knowledge and data collected in Maine.

Problem 2: To maintain existing Harlequin Duck wintering sites, habitat must be protected from disturbance and degradation.

Strategy 2.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to conduct habitat management to maintain or improve wintering habitat for Harlequin Ducks. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Strategy 2.2: Restrict human-related activities (e.g., habitat degradation and pollution, human disturbance) at important Harlequin Duck wintering sites.

Strategy 2.3: Develop and enhance cooperative relationships with conservation partners to maintain or improve suitability of wintering habitat.

Strategy 2.4: Develop public outreach activities to promote an awareness and understanding of Harlequin Ducks (including its habitat requirements and vulnerability of these habitats to contamination by pollutants and disturbance by humans).

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Strategy 2.5: If necessary, protect important wintering areas for Harlequin Ducks as Significant Wildlife Habitat (NRPA) or Essential Habitat (Maine's Endangered Species Act).

Problem 3: There may be resistance to various habitat management approaches (i.e., reduction of human-related activities around critical wintering areas) by public and commercial groups.

Strategy 3.1: Develop public outreach activities to promote an awareness and understanding of Harlequin Ducks (including its habitat requirements and vulnerability of these habitats to contamination by pollutants and disturbance by humans). This awareness may increase the various publics' understanding and acceptance of management tools that will be used.

Strategy 3.2: Develop support from other conservation agencies for the Department's habitat management approaches.

Strategy 3.3: If necessary, protect wintering areas for Harlequin Ducks as Significant Wildlife Habitat (NRPA) or Essential Habitat (Maine's Endangered Species Act).