

FEASIBILITY STATEMENTS FOR RED-NECKED PHALAROPE GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

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Goal: Determine the reasons for the decline of Red-necked Phalaropes in Maine and develop objectives for population recovery if possible or appropriate.

Objective 1: Through 2015, work with partners to identify and monitor Red-necked Phalarope populations and suitable habitats used by Red-necked Phalaropes in Maine.

Desirability: Identifying and monitoring of Red-necked Phalarope populations and their habitats is required to determine suitability of phalarope staging habitats in Maine. Knowledge of the Red-necked Phalarope population status, and working with international partners, would be desirable to further the conservation of this species.

Feasibility: A standardized, scientifically based system for identifying and monitoring Red-necked Phalarope populations and their habitats can be developed using a combination of aerial and boat surveys coordinated with the Canadian Wildlife Service. Although feasible, it will require a major financial commitment.

Capability of Habitat: Historically, staging areas located in the Quoddy Region of Maine and New Brunswick provided habitat for up to 1,000,000 Red-necked Phalaropes. Currently, only a few hundred Red-necked Phalaropes are observed staging in the Quoddy Region with significantly lower numbers observed staging off Mt. Desert Island, Mt. Desert Rock, Machias Seal Island, and Grand Manan Basin as well. The quality of staging habitat in the Quoddy Region is presently unknown.

Possible Consequences: Monitoring phalarope populations and their habitats in Maine would enable department staff to identify critical areas needed for staging. Information collected in Maine would also contribute to international efforts concerning hemispheric Red-necked Phalarope management. Monitoring would require significant Department staff time and expense.

Objective 2: By 2010, work with partners to identify the limiting factors, including any anthropogenic factors, affecting the population and distribution of Red-necked Phalaropes in Maine. Develop and implement objectives for population recovery through 2015.

Red-necked Phalarope Feasibility Statements

Desirability: Information on limiting factors is needed to determine appropriate management strategies for population recovery.

Feasibility: To determine limiting factors affecting the population and distribution of Red-necked Phalaropes, Department staff would need to collaborate with the Canadian Wildlife Service, and possibly other marine scientists, to identify short and long term influences on plankton distribution in the Quoddy Region. Once limiting factors and habitat suitability are determined, population recovery objectives can be established. Although feasible, it will require a major financial commitment.

Capability of Habitat: Unknown.

Possible Consequences: Protection and enhancement initiatives for fall and spring staging habitat may be identified. Resulting protective strategies may conflict with aquaculture and other marine vocations in the Quoddy Region. Identification of limiting factors may indicate population recovery in the Quoddy Region is no longer possible.