

COMMON EIDER MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Raised by Working Group May 4, 2001

Population

- Need for improved surveys.
- Need a better understanding of breeding and non-breeding population status, adult survival, movements, recruitment, and harvest mortality.
- Genetic composition of harvested birds. Is most of Maine's harvest homegrown?

Habitat

- Need a better understanding of brood rearing habitat on the mainland.

Limiting Factors

- Principal food resources are highly valued by commercial fisherman (mussels, rockweed, sea urchins).
- Predation – especially black-backed gulls.
- Susceptibility to oil spills – especially during the molt in late August.
- Avian cholera.
- Development and associated disturbances (dogs, cats).
- Recreational activity and potential for disturbance.