Bat Listing: Maine's Perspective

Outline

- Background and what led to state listing

- Current stance/protections under the Maine Endangered Species Act (MESA)

- Current draft amendments to MESA

- Questions

Maine's Listed Bats

MESA listed

- Little brown bat – state endangered

- Northern long–eared bat – state endangered (and fed threatened)

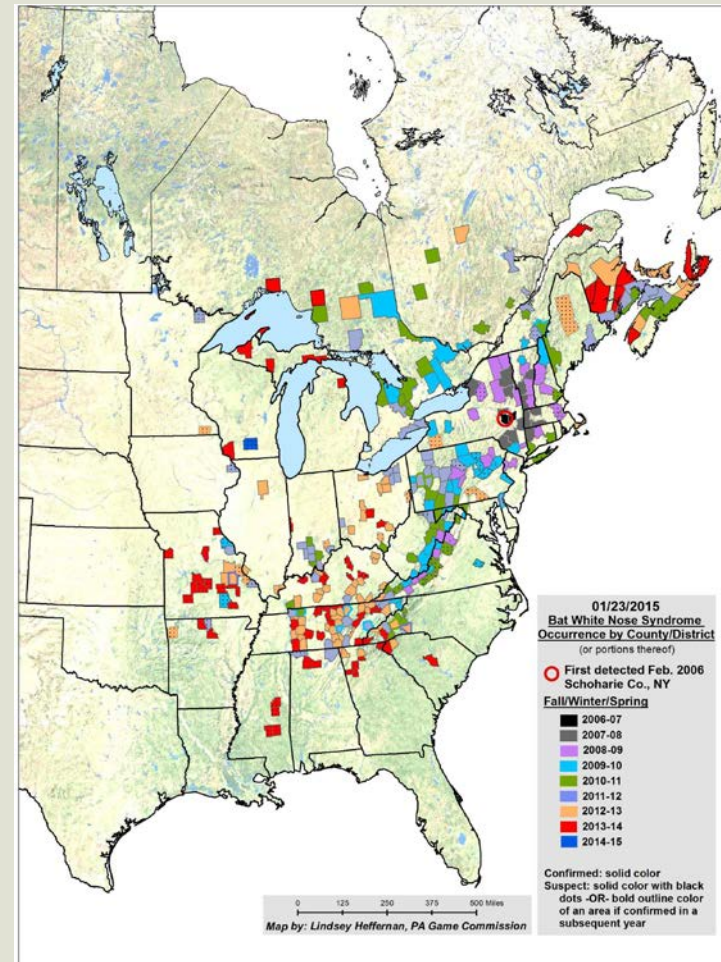- Eastern small–footed bat – state threatened

What drove listing

Disease

- Pseudogymnoascus destructans (Pd)

- Causal agent for White Nose Syndrome

- First documented NY 2006

- Spread across eastern NA

01/23/2015
Bat White Nose Syndrome
Occurrence by County/District
(or portions thereof)

○ First detected Feb. 2006
  Schoharie Co., NY

Fall/Winter/Spring
- 2006-07
- 2007-08
- 2008-09
- 2009-10
- 2010-11
- 2011-12
- 2012-13
- 2013-14
- 2014-15

Confirmed: solid color
Suspect: solid color with black dots -OR- bold outline color of an area if confirmed in a subsequent year

0   125   250   375   500 Miles

Map by: Lindsey Heffernan, PA Game Commission

What drove listing

Evidence for listing

- 90–98% decline in hibernacula occurrence

- Evidence supported by
    - consultant data
    - other state reports

- Used information to petition legislature

- Officially listed October 15, 2015

Current Provisions

As MESA currently stands

- Protected from
    - take (killing in MESA terms)

    - harassment

- No essential habitat listed – may change

    - no known maternity sites

    - only 4 known hibernaculum already protected

Current Provisions

- First listing simultaneous with USFWS

  – desire mesh of state/fed regulations

- Provide protection during vulnerable life stages
  – maternity period

  – hibernation

Moving Forward

- Interest in protections/exemptions similar to federal 4-D

    – Legislative resolve brought forth by MFPC

    – report back to legislature by mid January

    – review identified need in MESA

Potential MESA Changes

- MESA was lacking
    - exemption for take by rule (general activities)
    - Incidental Take Permit (large group)

- MESA amendment drafted
    - currently in legislative process
    - If approved, official 90 days after closure

If Passed

- MESA would have two new provisions

    1) Exemption by rule under agreed conservation practices (ex. Federal 4-D)

    ex. Tree harvesting

    2) Ability to create group ITP under conservation practices

    ex. ADC, Mist Netters

Conclusion

- Maine is focusing protection on maternity and hibernacula

- Maternity sites unknown but may change

- Desire for state rules to mirror federal 4-D

- Potential MESA amendments provide 4-D and ITP provisions under MESA

Questions?