



Photo: Glenn Corbier

## MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE



### Forest Management Recommendations for the Common Sanddragon Dragonfly

#### **Background**

Damselflies and dragonflies (Order: Odonata) are conspicuous and ecologically important aquatic insects in Maine where nearly 160 distinct species have been documented. The Common Sanddragon (*Progomphus obscurus*) is one of the state's rarest dragonflies, listed as Special Concern due to its narrow State distribution (only southwestern) and association with clean, sand-bottomed streams, rivers, and lakes with intact riparian habitat.

The larvae of these dragonflies are found in the aquatic benthos where they may require several years to mature. Adults emerge in June and have a flight period that lasts at least through August. Adults forage on smaller aerial insects (mosquitoes, mayflies, etc.) and spend much of their time taking refuge within riparian forest vegetation.

#### **Management Recommendations**

Many of Maine's wildlife species require or make use of intact riparian forest habitat. MDIFW recommends the following practices, adapted from *Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Maine: A Guide to Assist with Forestry Activities* (1999), for the Common Sanddragon to protect water quality for larvae and riparian vegetation for adults:

1. **Lacustrine Extent:** Maintain a *150-foot* wide forested riparian management zone around **lakes, ponds, and wetlands** hosting documented occurrences.

**Riverine Extent:** Maintain a *250-foot* wide forested riparian management zone around **rivers** hosting documented occurrences

2. **Activity within the Riparian Management Zone**

**(0 to 150 feet in lacustrine settings; 0 to 250 feet in riverine settings):**

- Avoid any harvest activity or disturbance within 50 feet of the high water shoreline
- Beyond 50 feet, manage with single-tree or small group-selection cuts that maintain a 60-70% canopy cover in an evenly distributed stand
- Harvest during dry or frozen ground conditions
- Avoid or minimize the construction of permanent roads or openings
- Build temporary bridges across all perennial streams prior to any motorized equipment crossing
- Avoid the use of herbicides and insecticides