PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES FOR LEACH'S STORM-PETREL MANAGEMENT IN MAINE

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Problem 1: The Department's current financial and personnel support is inadequate to implement an inventory and monitoring program for nesting Leach's Storm-Petrels in Maine.

Strategy 1.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to implement an inventory and monitoring program for nesting Leach's Storm-Petrels 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 inventory and monitoring efforts with conservation partners.

Problem 2: To maintain existing and create new Leach's Storm-Petrel breeding colonies, 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 improve nesting conditions for petrels. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Strategy 2.2: Reduce or eliminate gull populations on Leach's Storm-Petrel nesting islands, where needed.

Strategy 2.3: Restrict human use (e.g., recreational, sheep grazing) of petrel nesting islands.

Strategy 2.4: Develop outreach activities to promote an awareness and understanding of Leach's Storm-Petrels (habitat requirements, vulnerability to human disturbance, and the need for gull control).

Strategy 2.5: Continue to cultivate cooperative management relationships with conservation partners and landowners.

Strategy 2.6: Contribute to efforts to increase conservation ownership of islands that are important for nesting petrels by obtaining additional sources of funding and/or redistributing existing personnel time.

Strategy 2.7: If necessary, protect nesting islands for Leach's Storm-Petrels as Significant Wildlife Habitat (NRPA) or as P-FW or P-RP zones (LURC).

Problem 3: Leach's Storm-Petrels may not naturally colonize potential nesting sites.

Strategy 3.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to conduct population management. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Strategy 3.2: Develop and enhance cooperative relationships with conservation partners and landowners to maintain or improve the suitability of potential nesting islands.

Strategy 3.3: Use attraction and gull control techniques, as appropriate, to restore breeding populations of petrels on islands with suitable habitat.

Strategy 3.4: Restrict human use (e.g., recreational, sheep grazing) of potential nesting islands.

Strategy 3.5: Develop outreach activities to promote an awareness and understanding of Leach's Storm-Petrels (habitat requirements, vulnerability to human disturbance, and the need for gull control).

Problem 4: There may be resistance to various habitat management approaches by the public and other conservation agencies (i.e., predator control and reduction of human-related disturbance).

Strategy 4.1: Develop outreach activities to promote an awareness and understanding of Leach's Storm-Petrels (including its habitat requirements, vulnerability of nesting islands to human-related disturbance [e.g., recreational use, sheep grazing], and the need for gull control). This awareness may increase the public's understanding and acceptance of management tools that will be used.

Strategy 4.2: Develop support from other conservation agencies for the Department's habitat management approaches.

Strategy 4.3: Work with conservation partners to manage habitat for petrels in a manner that is not deleterious to tern restoration efforts.