

PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES FOR RAZORBILL 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 Razorbills in Maine.

Strategy 1.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to implement an inventory and monitoring program for nesting Razorbills. 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 Razorbill 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. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Strategy 2.2: Restrict human visitation on Razorbill nesting islands during the nesting season.

Strategy 2.3: Develop public outreach activities to promote an awareness and understanding of Razorbills (habitat requirements, vulnerability to human disturbance, and the need for gull control).

Strategy 2.4: Continue to cultivate cooperative management relationships with conservation partners and landowners.

Strategy 2.5: Contribute to efforts to increase conservation ownership of islands that are important for nesting Razorbills by obtaining additional sources of funding and/or redistributing existing personnel time.

Strategy 2.6: Reduce or eliminate gull populations on Razorbill nesting islands, where needed.

Razorbill Problems and Strategies

Strategy 2.7: If necessary, protect nesting islands for Razorbills as Significant Wildlife Habitat (NRPA), Essential Habitat (Maine's Endangered Species Act), or as P-FW or P-RP zones (LURC).

Problem 3: Razorbills may not naturally colonize potential nesting sites in the desired distribution pattern along the Maine coast.

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 Razorbills on islands with suitable habitat.

Strategy 3.4: Restrict human visitation on potential nesting islands during the nesting season.

Strategy 3.5: Develop public outreach activities to promote an awareness and understanding of Razorbills (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 public outreach activities to promote an awareness and understanding of Razorbills (including its habitat requirements, vulnerability to human disturbance, 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.

Problem 5: Additional knowledge of life history and habitat requirements of Razorbills (e.g., breeding success and productivity, use of foraging habitat during breeding season, nesting habitat partitioning among seabird species, chick rearing habitat, predation, winter ranges, and survival of chicks to maturity) is needed to enhance population growth.

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Strategy 5.1: Actively seek support for sufficient additional staff and financial resources to collaborate on research of Razorbill populations with Universities and other seabird researchers. Reallocating existing staff and financial resources is not feasible, as it would prevent achieving management goals and objectives for other species.

Strategy 5.2: Support efforts of other conservation agencies and organizations by sharing knowledge and data collected in Maine.