

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 16, 2019

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m.

**Approval for the October 16, 2019 Meeting Agenda**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the October 16, 2019 Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
  2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from June 19, 2019 Meeting**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Keithley moved to accept the October 16, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.
  2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Commission members welcomed Commissioner Joseph Michael's return as a Commissioner**

**New Maryland Natural Resources Police Superintendent Adrian Baker introduced himself to the members of the Commission. Superintendent Baker recalled sitting on the Commission years ago and he expressed appreciation for the work that the Commission does. Superintendent Baker offered assistance to the Commission.**

**Natural Heritage Program Update – Proposed Changes to the State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species – Associate Director Jonathan McKnight.**

- Associate Director McKnight gave an update on Natural Heritage Program old business items:
  1. Recovering America's Wildlife Act -- which this Commission has generously supported. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act has been reintroduced in the U.S. House Representatives. It has over one hundred bipartisan supporters on the bill. This Act will bring millions of dollars to wildlife agencies at very little cost and at a low match level. It has not been cross-filed in the U.S. Senate. There are many conservationists and non-profit groups working hard on this bill. Mr. McKnight will keep the Commission in the loop as to how things are going with this bill.
  2. There is a feral swine situation in Charles County that staff members are working to control.
    - a. It started with 12 released swine – all are under control as of November 1. The potential impacts of a wild swine population is a tremendous threat.
- Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee (WDAC) Update:
  1. The Chairman is Jim Rapp and he was unable to attend the WAC meeting.
  2. The WDAC has reviewed the proposed changes to the Animal State Listing and Plant State Listing. The members of WDAC are in favor of the changes that Science Program Manager Gwen Brewer will be going over with WAC.
- Science Program Manager Gwen Brewer informed the members of the Commission about a prescribed burn at Soldier's Delight WMA that the Commission was able to field visit last year. It is looking great. Dr. Brewer encouraged the members of the Commission to revisit the site during the early fall days because it looks amazing with the wildflowers, etc.
- Dr. Brewer informed the Commission that one of the main functions of the Natural Heritage Program is meeting the regulatory obligations and making sure the Maryland State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species list is up to date and accurate. Every few years, staff members do a thorough review of that list and evaluate the list for anything new, for things that

may need to go on the list or come off the list or change in status. These changes have gone through internal staff review and have obtained support from WDAC.

- She presented a summary of the listing process for Maryland State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species along with the Criteria for State Listed Species, Proposed Animal State Listing Changes October 2019, and Proposed Plant State Listing Changes October 2019. [ATTACHMENT A]
  1. Once the staff receives the approval to proceed, the changes will go to the Maryland Register for public comment. Staff will send a notification to governors of neighboring states along with interested groups.
  2. The staff tries to update the list every two to three years; however, it could be done sooner if necessary. The last time it was updated was 2016.
  3. In Need of Conservation can only be applied to animals and that includes invertebrates but not plants.
  4. There are a total of 60 species changes between plant and animal. There are 4 species that are newly listed. There are 3 species with increased protection. There are 9 species proposing a decrease in legal protection. There are 44 species that are being proposed to come off the list in entirety.
  5. Three of the animal species are newly federally listed species. There are three changes in the decrease in protection on the Animal State Listing. There are four species that are being proposed to take off the Animal State Listing in their entirety.
  6. There are 49 total plant species. There are three species going from endangered extirpated to endangered. There are no new plant species to add to the Plant State Listing. There are six species changing from endangered to threatened status. There are 40 being taken off the Plant State Listing.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Weinberg moved to accept the changes to Maryland's Animal State Listing and Plant State Listing as recommended by the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee.
  2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Commissioner Gulbrandsen noticed in Mr. McKnight's summary of WDAC that the committee was low on members.
  1. There are currently four members on the WDAC.
  2. The members on WDAC are very active and the members do a great job.
  3. The WDAC members have a desire to bring more members on board.
  4. The Commission recognized WDAC dedication with lack of members and sends their support to the WDAC to seek additional members.

**Waterfowl Population Update** – Presentation was given by Waterfowl Project Leader Josh Homyack.  
[ATTACHMENT B]

- Waterfowl Project Leader Homyack gave an update of the 2019 Migratory Game Bird Status via Power Point Presentation.
- The Commission received the status report prior to the Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee.
- The woodcock migration website is <https://www.woodcockmigration.org/research.html>.
- Q&A Section:
  1. Commissioner Weinberg asked why Maryland does not limit the harvest of mallards similar to black ducks during the October season given the late migration.

- a. Black ducks are not taken during the October Season because traditionally Maryland has had a fair amount of nesting black ducks in the salt marsh and the Bay's islands. Maryland does not have many nesting black ducks that is why we protect the black ducks in October. The mallards that the hunters see in the October harvest are released birds and/or birds that have migrated. There are very few mallards that nest in the State compared to other states that migrate from the north.
2. Commissioner Weinberg asked is there a scientific reason to be concerned about how long a migratory population is in Maryland once the birds arrive before harvesting them.
  - a. That figures into the larger framework. The number of days the birds are exposed across the entire season. Staff select the days within the framework.
3. Commissioner Weinberg asked if it was not for wood ducks and teal would Maryland have an October season.
  - a. That is a question that would require survey data from hunters. A survey was done less than 15 years ago. The focus on the survey was where to place the October season. The general consensus was to have the October season later in the month. The Atlantic Flyway Population of mallards is not impacted by the harvest in October.
  - b. Hunters that hunted the Potomac would comment that hunters need October not just for teal and wood duck but also for mallards. There are a lot of mallards that are harvested in October, for example, on the Magothy River, Severn River, Patapsco River, and Bear Creek in blind sites. A lot of these mallards are local mallards so the birds do not migrate.
4. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked what is the target population to get rid of the Snow Geese Conservation Order.
  - a. There has been no discussion at the Atlantic Flyway. Mr. Homyack will research that information and report back to the Commission on that question.

### **Break Time 12:02 PM to 12:20 PM**

### **Commission members provided their ranking sheets for Conservationist, Employee, and Farmer of the Year Nominations.**

- Chairman Compton explained the ranking sheet to the members of the Commission and requested that each member give the ranking sheet to Ms. Spencer.
- Director Peditto requested that the ranking sheet formula be revisited for consistency.

### **2020 WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda – WAC Review and Approval [ATTACHMENT C]**

- Chairman Compton reminded the Commission that the Chair and Vice Chair positions are voted on annual so that will be taken care of on January 15, 2020.
- The March 18, 2020 will be a bear den surveying field day along with a meeting in Western Maryland.
- Discussion ensued about the Atlantic Canada Goose Population and keeping the Commission informed.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Weinberg moved to add the Waterfowl Population Update to the October 21, 2020 agenda topics.
  2. Commissioner Michael seconded.
  3. Discussion: The data is collected and released during the same time of the year. Administratively when the seasons are proposed has changed. October is a good time to review the waterfowl population data. The timeline used to be the spring and summer survey,

the states would use that data to draft the seasons that would start around six weeks later. Due to the time it took the USFWS to adopt regulations, USFWS decided to use previous year data to develop the frameworks.

4. Chairman Compton added the WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda to the October meeting.
  5. Commissioner Michael seconded.
  6. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Motion:
    1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the 2020 WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda.
    2. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.
    3. All in favor. Motion passed.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Update**

- Maryland Farm Bureau Government Relations Director Colby Ferguson had to leave prior to the Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Update.
- The Commission discussed a recent new item about Anne Arundel County planning to allow county police officers to shoot deer on private land in Anne Arundel County. Some of the WAC members may recall in 2008 or 2009, the Maryland State Police attended an MFB meeting where it was announced that State Police will be taking over deer removal operations in Washington county. That item made it into the press, less than two days later Barracks Commander announced that the Washington County State Police will not be doing that and that they will not be getting into that business. Other jurisdictions are looking for other ways to manage the deer population, including expanding Sunday hunting opportunities...
  1. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked for clarification about the permission for the Anne Arundel County Police to do this type of work.
    - a. It would require a Deer Cooperator Permit from WHS and all of the shooters would be required to go through the written and practical testing; and submit operational plans with permission from each landowner.
    - b. It was brought to the attention of the Department by a reporter who was doing a story on it. Anne Arundel County announced at a meeting so the reporter came to us asking how would this activity work.
    - c. Commissioners discussed the history of jurisdictions thinking that law enforcement officers make better deer hunters than everyday deer hunters – there is no evidence of that.

### **Natural Resources Police Update**

- The Commission met the new Colonel Adrian Baker. Colonel Baker started on September 11, 2019. Colonel Baker has a conservation background.
- Conservation Efforts: NRP officers will be busy with enforcing hunting seasons and bag limits for the next several months.
- Safety Education Lt. Bob Ford retired. Lt. James Satterfield is the replacement.
- Discussion ensued about NRP officers that are retiring and replacements.

### **Old Business – No Old Business.**

### **New Business –**

- Chairman Compton and Commissioner Keithley were discussing during the break the awards that the Commission gives out. In the past, the Maryland Bowhunter Society recognized an

outstanding NRP officer at an annual event. It is a good idea for the Commission to embrace – would like to have NRP Officer of the Year Award presented by this body.

1. Commissioner Michael expressed that the NRP Officer should be recognized for something that is wildlife-related.
  2. Wildlife enforcement or conservation criteria should be developed.
  3. Two members of the Commission will work with Lt. Charles Fawley to develop the wildlife criteria. Commissioner Boyles Griffin, Commissioner Keithley, and Lt. Charles Fawley agreed to work on criteria.
  4. The assignment will be a long-term project so it can be done correctly. The goal is to have it ready for next year's awards.
- Procedural reminder to the members of the Commission: Each of the members of the Commission should have a copy of the Wildlife Advisory Commission Membership Roster. If your term is up or about to be up, you want to continue serving, and you have not applied for reappointment you should do so at <http://govappointments.maryland.gov/>.
  - Discussion ensued about wildlife restitution.

### Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

### Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, S. Keithley, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	C. Wagner
Guest:	C. Ferguson
Staff:	A. Baker, G. Brewer, C. Fawley, J. Homyack, T. Larney, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and K. Stonesifer

## Summary of Listing Process for Maryland State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

### Preliminary Review:

- State Botanist and State Zoologist review current State list in light of:
  - data collected since last review by staff or others;
  - other new information relevant to listed or newly-discovered species;
  - any requests received for changes in species status;
  - changes in federal listings;
  - recent taxonomic changes.
- State Botanist and State Zoologist put together a preliminary list of proposed changes.

### Professional Consultation:

- Species experts, both internal and external to DNR, are contacted for input on preliminary proposed listing changes. Special review panels may be formed to review particular taxa, groups of species, or individual species.
- Proposed listing changes with justifications are presented at a Threatened and Endangered Species Listing Review meeting. This meeting includes Natural Heritage Program staff as well as other invited experts.

### Information Preparation:

- State Zoologist and State Botanist prepare element decision forms and element state ranking forms for species that will be proposed for a listing change or new listing. These forms present basic information about the species and the justification for a proposed listing change.
- A summary of listing changes and accompanying species ranking forms are put together into a packet.

### Information Dissemination and Approval:

- Proposed species changes are presented to the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee for concurrence and the Wildlife Advisory Commission for formal approval by vote.
- Notice of proposed changes is published in the Maryland Register through the regulation promulgation process.
- When notice of proposed changes appears in the Maryland Register, letters are sent to Governors of surrounding states (via state DNR directors), and a number of interested groups are notified that these changes have been proposed. The summary of listing changes and species ranking forms may be requested by any interested groups or individuals.

### Public Consultation:

- Public comment is accepted for at least 30 days after the date of publication of proposed changes in the Maryland Register. A public meeting may be held.

## Criteria for State Listed Species

(from COMAR 08.03.08)

**Endangered (E)** – a species whose continued existence as a viable component of the State’s flora or fauna is determined to be in jeopardy.

Should meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Whether the species is restricted to a minimal geographic area within Maryland.
2. Whether the species has experienced a rapid, substantial decline in Maryland, and, if the decline continues, the species’ extirpation from Maryland is imminent.
3. Whether the species’ essential habitat has been rapidly lost and that loss is likely to continue.
4. Whether the species’ biology makes it highly susceptible to changes its environment.
5. Whether the species’ essential habitat is easily altered by even relatively minor activities.

Additional factors cited in the State’s endangered species act for consideration include:

6. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range.
7. Overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, educational, or other purposes.
8. Disease or predation.
9. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.
10. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence in the State.

**Threatened (T)** – a species of flora or fauna which appears likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered in the State.

Should meet or more of the following criteria:

1. Whether the species has experienced a steady, substantial decline in Maryland, and, if the declines continue, the species is likely to become Endangered.
2. Whether there has been steady, widespread loss of the species’ essential habitat.
3. Whether protection measures already taken have significantly reduced chances of the species becoming extirpated from Maryland.

**In Need of Conservation (I)** – an animal species whose population is limited or declining in the State such that it may become threatened in the foreseeable future if current trends or conditions persist.

Should meet one or more of the following:

1. Whether the population is limited or declining within Maryland.
2. Whether the species may become threatened in the foreseeable future, if current trends or conditions persist.

**Endangered Extirpated (X)** – a species that was once a viable component of the flora or fauna of the State, but for which no naturally occurring populations are known to exist in the State.

Factors for consideration include:

1. The species was once a viable component of the State's flora and fauna and there are no records of it occurring naturally in Maryland after 1950.
2. The species was once a viable component of the State's flora and fauna, and recent scientific investigations have documented the loss of its habitat or disappearance of its population in Maryland.

Proposed Animal State Listing Changes October 2019

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Legal Status		Federal Legal Status	Comments
		Current	Proposed		
<b>Mollusks:</b>					
Triangle Floater	<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>	Endangered	Threatened		Additional populations discovered in recent years. More abundant in less degraded streams and rivers, and considered to be sensitive to habitat degradation. Recent local declines and tends to occur in small numbers with other rare mussels.
Yellow Lance	<i>Elliptio lanceolata</i>		Threatened	Threatened	Federally listed as Threatened in 2017. Major rangewide declines. Associated with clean, clear streams and rivers.
Appalachian Springsnail	<i>Fontigens bottimeri</i>		In Need of Conservation		Highly specialized, range almost entirely restricted to Maryland. Restricted to clean, high quality springs and caves in karst areas. Vulnerable to a variety of threats including groundwater pollution and withdrawal.
<b>Bees:</b>					
Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus affinis</i>		Endangered	Endangered	Federally listed in 2017. Historic records from 5 counties, most recent record in Maryland is from 2001. Recent records from VA and WV.
<b>Butterflies:</b>					
Great Purple Hairstreak	<i>Atlides halesus</i>	Threatened	Delist		Range expanded in recent years and additional records documented in Maryland. A southern species expanding northward, possibly in response to a changing climate. Occurs with abundant oak mistletoe in the Coastal Plain counties.
Compton Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis vaualbum</i>	Endangered	Delist		Mobile, migratory species, uncommon irregular resident that is not a conservation target for Maryland. Widespread northern distribution, breeds occasionally in Allegany and Garrett counties.

Proposed Animal State Listing Changes October 2019

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Legal Status		Federal Legal Status	Comments
		Current	Proposed		
<b>Freshwater Fishes:</b>					
Mud Sunfish	<i>Acantharcus pomotis</i>	In Need of Conservation	Delist		Additional records documented, including from two new counties. No known major threats or significant population declines. Uncommon but appears to be more widespread and secure than previously thought.
Flier	<i>Centrarchus macropterus</i>	Threatened	In Need of Conservation		Additional records documented, including from two new counties. No known major threats or significant population declines. Moderately vulnerable to habitat degradation. Uncommon but appears to be more widespread and secure than previously thought.
Swamp Darter	<i>Etheostoma fusiforme</i>	In Need of Conservation	Delist		Additional records documented, including from three new counties, and potential for more new records. No imminent or major threats, or significant population declines.
Pearl Dace	<i>Margariscus margarita</i>	Threatened	In Need of Conservation		Additional records documented, including in a drainage where species thought to be extirpated. Distribution still limited in Maryland.
<b>Birds:</b>					
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>		Threatened	Threatened	Federally listed in 2014 due to population declines. Nests in arctic tundra and winters from SE U.S. to southern South America. Migrating birds stop over in MD coastal areas. Vulnerable during migration period primarily to impacts of coastal development and diminished horseshoe crab populations, as their eggs provide critical food during spring migration.

## Proposed Plant State Listing Changes October 2019

Scientific name (synonyms)	Common Name	State Legal Status		Comments
		Current	Proposed	
<i>Asplenium resiliens</i>	Black-stem Spleenwort	Endangered	Delist	Most states track its occurrence, but it cannot be defined as a species as it is a sterile triploid.
<i>Berberis canadensis</i>	American Barberry	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Misidentified specimen.
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	French Mulberry	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Not a conservation target due to widespread introductions.
<i>Carex shortiana</i>	Short's Sedge	Endangered	Delist	Expanding range and extent.
<i>Ceratophyllum echinatum</i> ( <i>C. muricatum</i> )	Prickly Hornwort	Endangered	Delist	Expanding range into anthropogenic habitats.
<i>Chenopodiastrum simplex</i> ( <i>Chenopodium simplex</i> , <i>C. gigantospermum</i> )	Giant-seed Goosefoot	Endangered	Threatened	Increase in the number of protected populations.
<i>Chenopodium standleyanum</i>	Standley's Goosefoot	Endangered	Delist	Focused inventory resulted in discovery of a large set of linear populations in the Ridge and Valley.
<i>Cuscuta coryli</i>	Hazel dodder	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Single location in unremarkable habitat and much uncertainty about distribution and actual rarity. Sufficient information to delist from X but with too much uncertainty to recommend a new status.
<i>Crassula aquatica</i>	Water Pygmyweed	Endangered Extirpated	Endangered	Rediscovered at Allens Fresh in tidal shoreline habitat.
<i>Dichanthelium boreale</i>	Northern Witchgrass	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Taxonomic error that has been resolved by new research.
<i>Digitaria villosa</i>	Shaggy Crabgrass	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Apparently restricted to the lower Eastern Shore; however, there has been too little survey time to be confident of a new status.
<i>Elatine minima</i>	Small waterwort	Endangered	Delist	Expanding range into anthropogenic habitats.
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	Northern Willowherb	Endangered	Delist	Occurring in Garrett County in both pristine mountain wetlands and in highly disturbed wetland sites along I-68.
<i>Gillenia stipulata</i>	American Ipecac	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Misidentified specimen.

Proposed Plant State Listing Changes October 2019

Scientific name (synonyms)	Common Name	State Legal Status		Comments
		Current	Proposed	
<i>Helianthus microcephalus</i>	Small Woodland Sunflower	Endangered	Delist	Misidentified specimen.
<i>Heuchera villosa</i>	Hairy Alumroot	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	No evidence that species is part of Maryland's native flora.
<i>Hexalectris spicata</i>	Crested Coral Root	Endangered Extirpated	Endangered	Rediscovery in Kent County Native American shell midden site.
<i>Hypericum ascyron</i>	Great St. John's Wort	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	No evidence that species is part of Maryland's native flora.
<i>Juncus brachycephalus</i>	Small head rush	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Specimen determined to be misidentified.
<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	Twinflower	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	No evidence that species is part of Maryland's native flora.
<i>Linum floridanum</i>	Florida Yellow Flax	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	No evidence that species is part of Maryland's native flora.
<i>Ludwigia glandulosa</i>	Cylindric-fruit Seedbox	Endangered	Delist	Expanding range and extent.
<i>Marshallia grandiflora</i>	Barbara's Buttons	Endangered Extirpated	delist	No evidence that species is part of Maryland's native flora.
<i>Matelea carolinensis</i>	Carolina angelpod	Endangered	Threatened	Several new locations documented, but all sites will experience increased competition with edge-loving exotics and invasives such as porcelain-berry, japanese honeysuckle, and asiatic bittersweet (to name a few).
<i>Matelea decipiens</i>	Old-field Milkvine	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	No evidence that species is part of Maryland's native flora.
<i>Melothria pendula</i>	Guadeloupe Cucumber	Endangered	Delist	Does not appear to be native. No known association with a natural plant community in Maryland.
<i>Najas gracillima</i>	Thread-like Naiad	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Consensus of a working group convened to review the status of species of submerged aquatic vegetation.
<i>Paspalum fluitans</i>	Horse-tail Paspalum	Endangered	Threatened	Discovery of additional small populations on protected lands.

Proposed Plant State Listing Changes October 2019

Scientific name (synonyms)	Common Name	State Legal Status		Comments
		Current	Proposed	
<i>Persicaria robustior</i>	Stout Smartweed	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Sufficient information to delist from X but not enough detail to recommend a new status.
<i>Phacelia covillei</i>	Coville's Phacelia	Endangered	Threatened	Locally abundant with some records indicating millions of plants. The overriding threat is competition (or eradication) by encroaching Fig Buttercup ( <i>Ficaria verna</i> ).
<i>Phalaris caroliniana</i>	May Grass	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Source of record indicates introduction out of natural range.
<i>Patis racemosa</i> ( <i>Piptatherum r.</i> , <i>Oryzopsis r.</i> )	Mountain Rice-grass	Threatened	Delist	The number of current populations, excellent protection status, and addition of a core site on protected lands suggest listing is not warranted.
<i>Plantago pusilla</i>	Dwarf Plantain	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Non-native.
<i>Potamogeton foliosus</i>	Leafy Pondweed	Endangered	Delist	Expanding range into anthropogenic habitats.
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	Richardson's Pondweed	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Misidentified specimen.
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	Flatleaf Pondweed	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Sufficient information to delist from X but not enough information to recommend a new status.
<i>Pycnanthemum verticillatum</i>	Whorled Mountainmint	Endangered	Threatened	Additional populations documented and broader habitat range and extent than expected.
<i>Ranunculus ambigens</i>	Water-plantain Spearwort	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Sufficient information to delist from X but not enough detail to recommend a new status.
<i>Ranunculus carolinianus</i> ( <i>R. hispidus</i> var. <i>nitidus</i> )	Carolina Buttercup	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Sufficient information to delist from X but not enough information to recommend a new status.
<i>Schoenoplectus smithii</i> (also tax change)	Smith's Bulrush	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	The habitat raises questions about conservation status.
<i>Scutellaria nervosa</i>	Veined Skullcap	Endangered	Threatened	Discovery of additional small populations on protected lands.
<i>Scutellaria parvula</i> var. <i>parvula</i>	Small Skullcap	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Long-persisting taxonomic error.
<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Prairie Goldenrod	Endangered Extirpated	Endangered	Rediscovery of a single population.

## Proposed Plant State Listing Changes October 2019

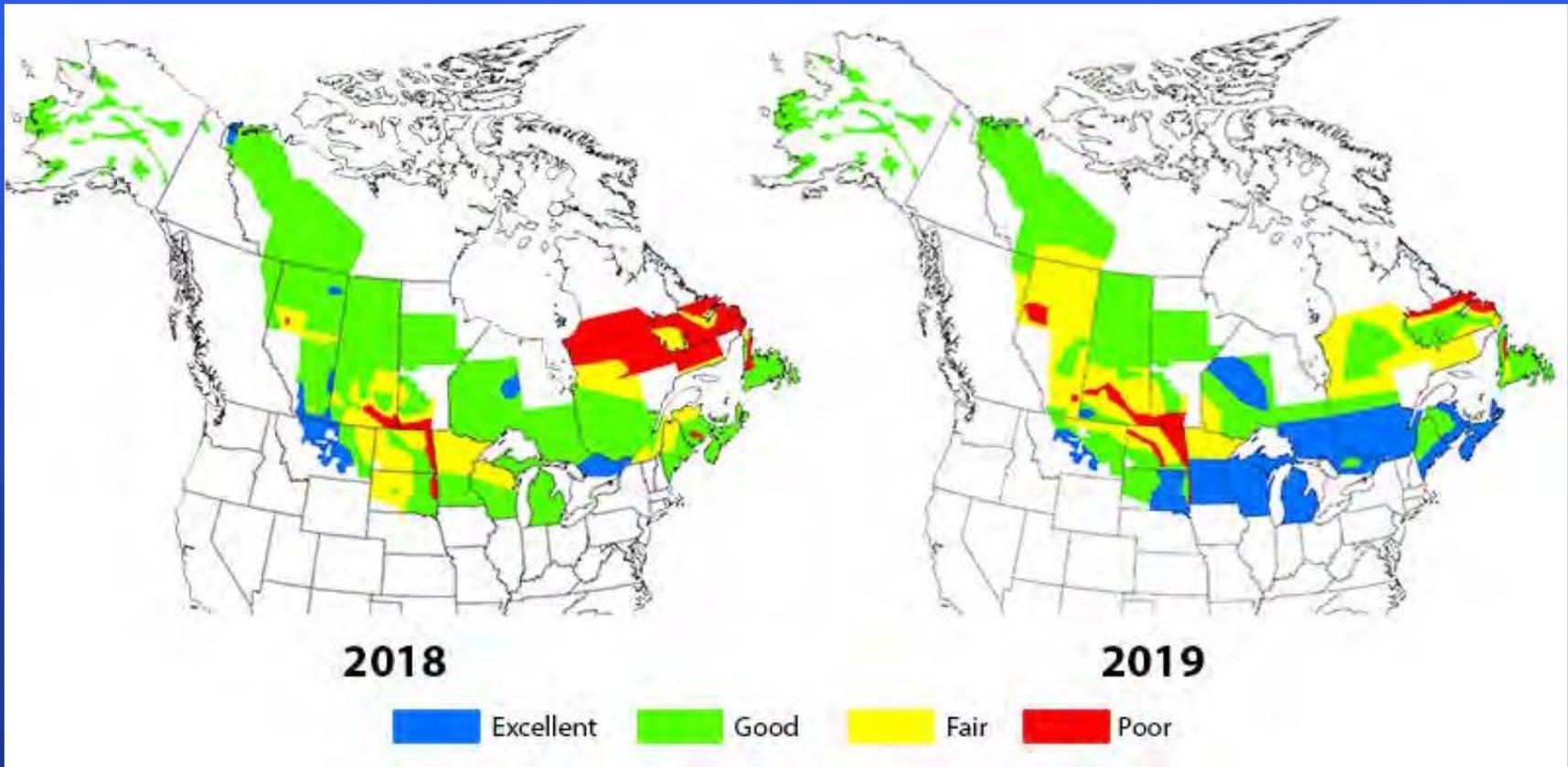
Scientific name (synonyms)	Common Name	State Legal Status		Comments
		Current	Proposed	
<i>Solidago roanensis</i>	Roan Mountain Goldenrod	Endangered	Delist	Focused inventory resulted in discovery of new subpopulations on protected lands.
<i>Solidago rupestris</i>	Rock Goldenrod	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Goldenrod expert John Semple has verified a Garrett County specimen collected by Hill in 1980, which not only extends the known range but completely changes the habitat association. It may be widely overlooked.
<i>Symphyotrichum concinnum</i> ( <i>Aster concinnus</i> , <i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i> var. <i>concinnum</i> )	Smooth Blue Aster	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Specimens at DNR herbarium in Annapolis have many intermediates between two varieties. Too much taxonomic uncertainty to recommend a new status.
<i>Utricularia inflata</i>	Swollen bladderwort	Endangered	Delist	Expanding range into anthropogenic habitats.
<i>Vitis novae-angliae</i>	New England Grape	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Hybrid without conservation value.
<i>Wolffiella gladiata</i>	Sword Bogmat	Endangered Extirpated	Delist	Not native, but not yet well established.

# 2019 Migratory Game Bird Status Update



# 2019 Habitat Conditions

- Total ponds 5.0 million  $\pm$ 0.2 million and similar to 2018 and the LTA (both 5.2 million).
- Eastern Survey Area had generally better conditions than 2018.



# 2019 Breeding Ducks in North America (millions)

Species	2019	2018	% Change from 2018	% Change from LTA
Mallard	9.4	9.3	similar	+19
Gadwall	3.3	2.9	similar	+61
American wigeon	2.8	2.8	similar	similar
Green-winged teal	3.2	3.0	similar	+47
Blue-winged teal	5.4	6.4	-16	similar
Northern shoveler	3.6	4.4	-13	+39
Northern pintail	2.3	2.4	similar	-42
Redhead	0.7	1.0	-27	similar
Canvasback	0.7	0.7	similar	similar
Scaup	3.6	4.0	similar	-28

# 2019 Breeding Ducks in the Eastern Survey Area (millions)

Species	2019	2018	% Change from 2018	% Change from LTA
Mallard	1.00	1.00	similar	-16
Black duck	0.70	0.71	similar	-16
Wood duck*	1.02	1.12	similar	similar
Green-winged teal	0.30	0.34	similar	-19
Ring-necked duck	0.70	0.63	similar	similar
Common goldeneye	0.50	0.49	similar	similar

\* Wood Duck estimate from AFBWS and BBS

# Multi-Stock Duck Harvest Recommendation

- **Approved by USFWS-SRC spring 2018 as the method by which general duck season will be determined in the Atlantic Flyway.**
- **Optimal choice for the 2020-21 Atlantic Flyway duck season is the liberal regulatory alternative.**



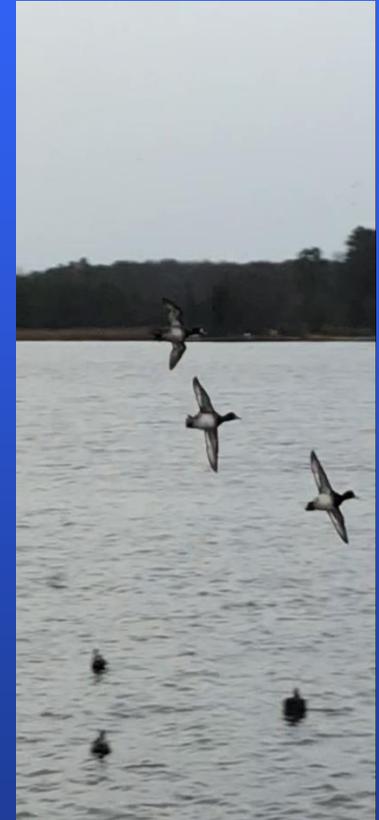
# Mallard Management Update



- Current provisional mallard strategy allows 2 bird daily bag in framework with no ability to adjust up or down.
- Atlantic Flyway Mallard Committee working on a Mallard Harvest Strategy.
- AFC and USFWS have approved a recommendation for a 1 hen mallard/day as part of 2 bird daily bag.

# Scaup Season

- Restrictive “hybrid” season for 2020-21.
- Based on current BPOP and predicted harvest.
- 40 days 1 bird/day and 20 consecutive days 2 birds/day.
- States choose where to place 20 days of 2 birds/day.....topic for public comment.



# Atlantic Brant and Snow Geese

Species	2019	2018	% Change from 2018
Greater Snow Geese (spring photo survey)	714,000	877,000	-19
Atlantic Brant (MWS count)	120,000	170,000	-29

- Poor nesting effort from all high latitude nesters in 2018.
  - Brant 1.5% young in 2018 fall flight (down 90% from 2017)
  - Snow geese 5% young in 2018 indicating poor reproduction
- 2019 hatch reports from banding crews indicate much improved conditions and reproductive effort.

# Webless Migratory Game Birds

- **No changes to Frameworks for 2020-21.**
- **Compensatory days for webless.**
- **Regional woodcock GPS marking project providing very interesting data.**

A large flock of Canada geese is captured in flight against a clear, bright blue sky. The geese are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others further away, creating a sense of movement and depth. Their dark wings and light bodies are clearly visible as they glide through the air.

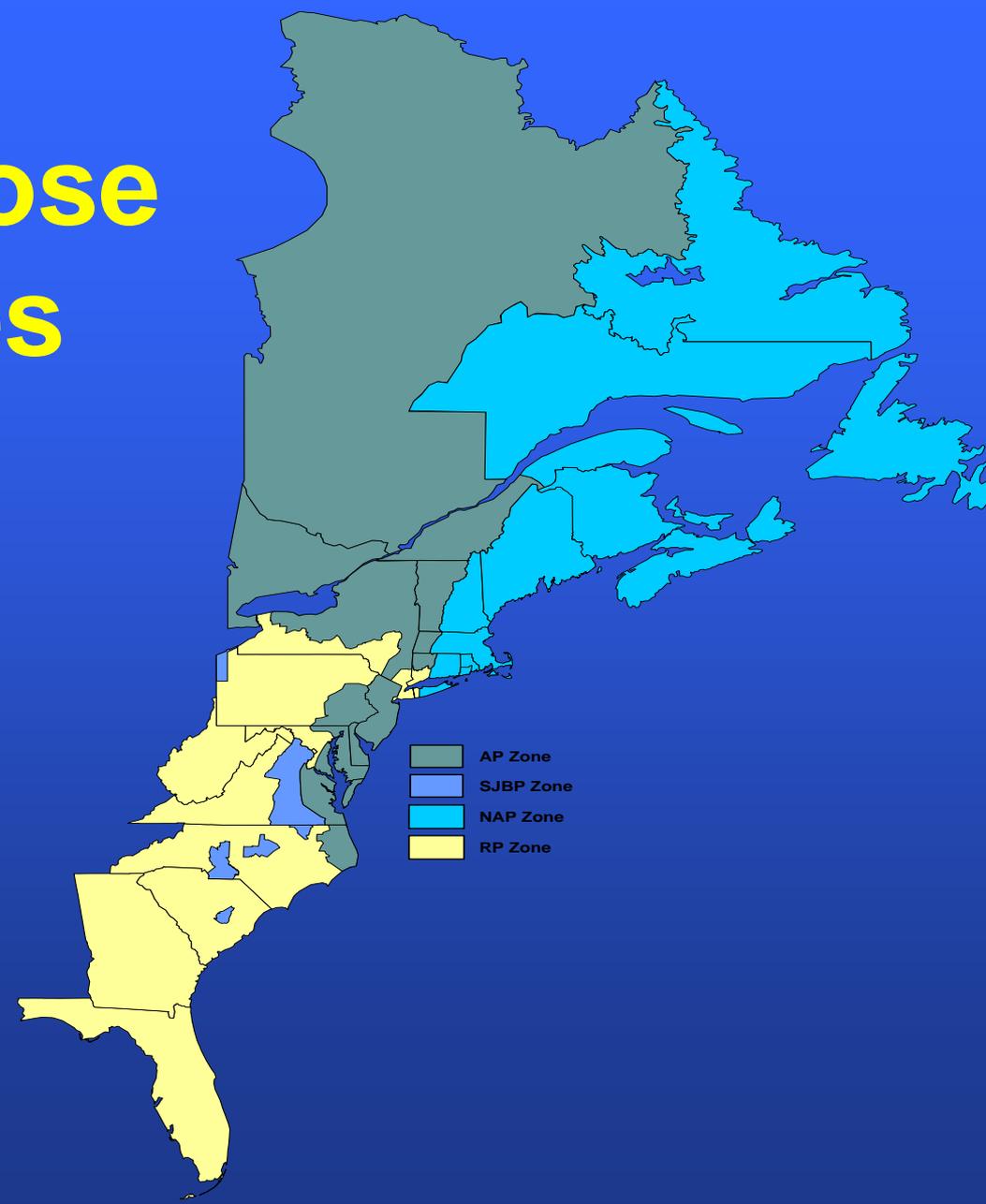
# Status of Atlantic Population Canada Geese

# AP Monitoring

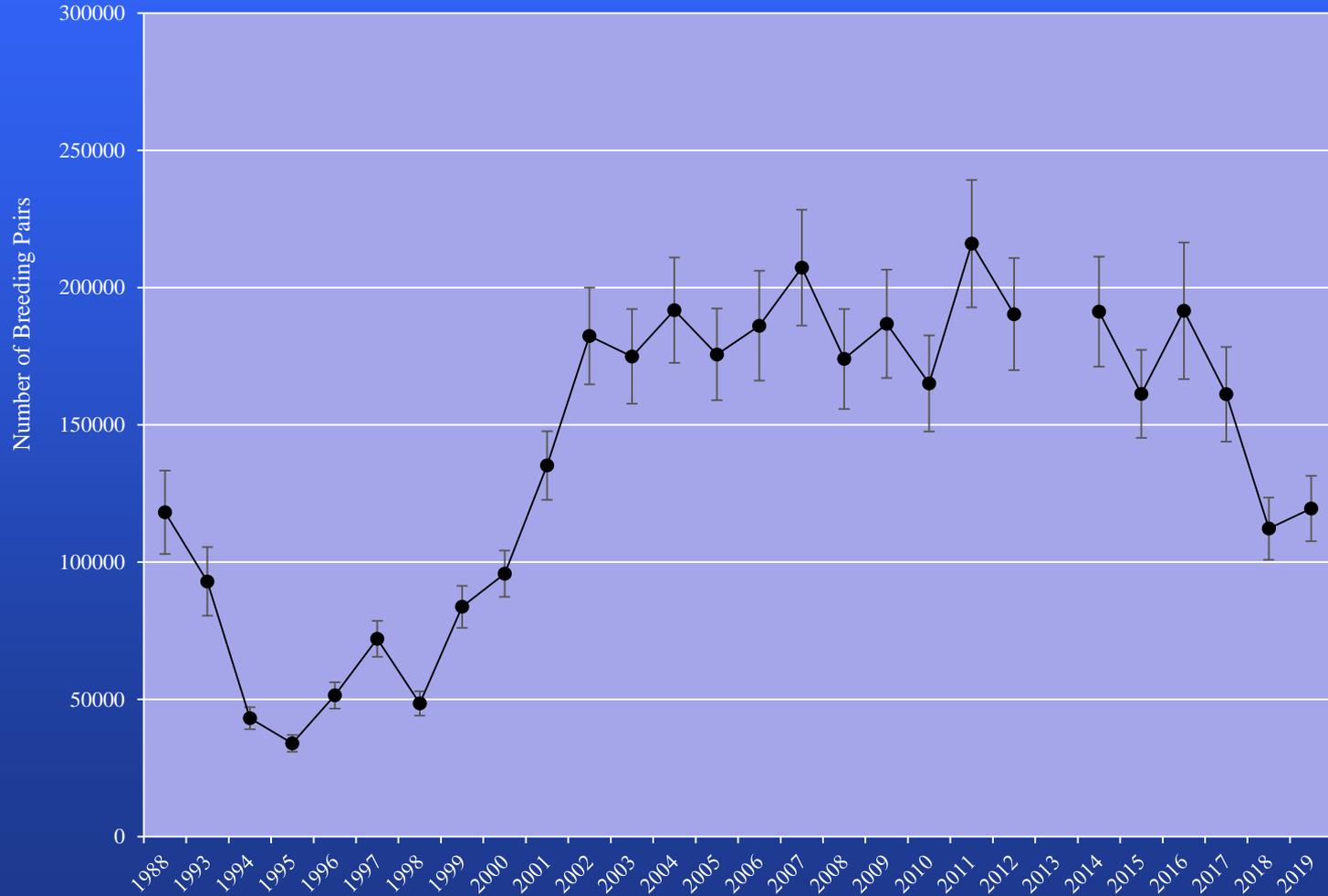
- **Breeding Pair Survey (mid-June)**
  - Estimate number of breeding pairs and total population
- **Pre-season Banding**
  - Harvest rate
  - Survival rate
  - Recovery distribution
  - Productivity (young/adult of captured birds)



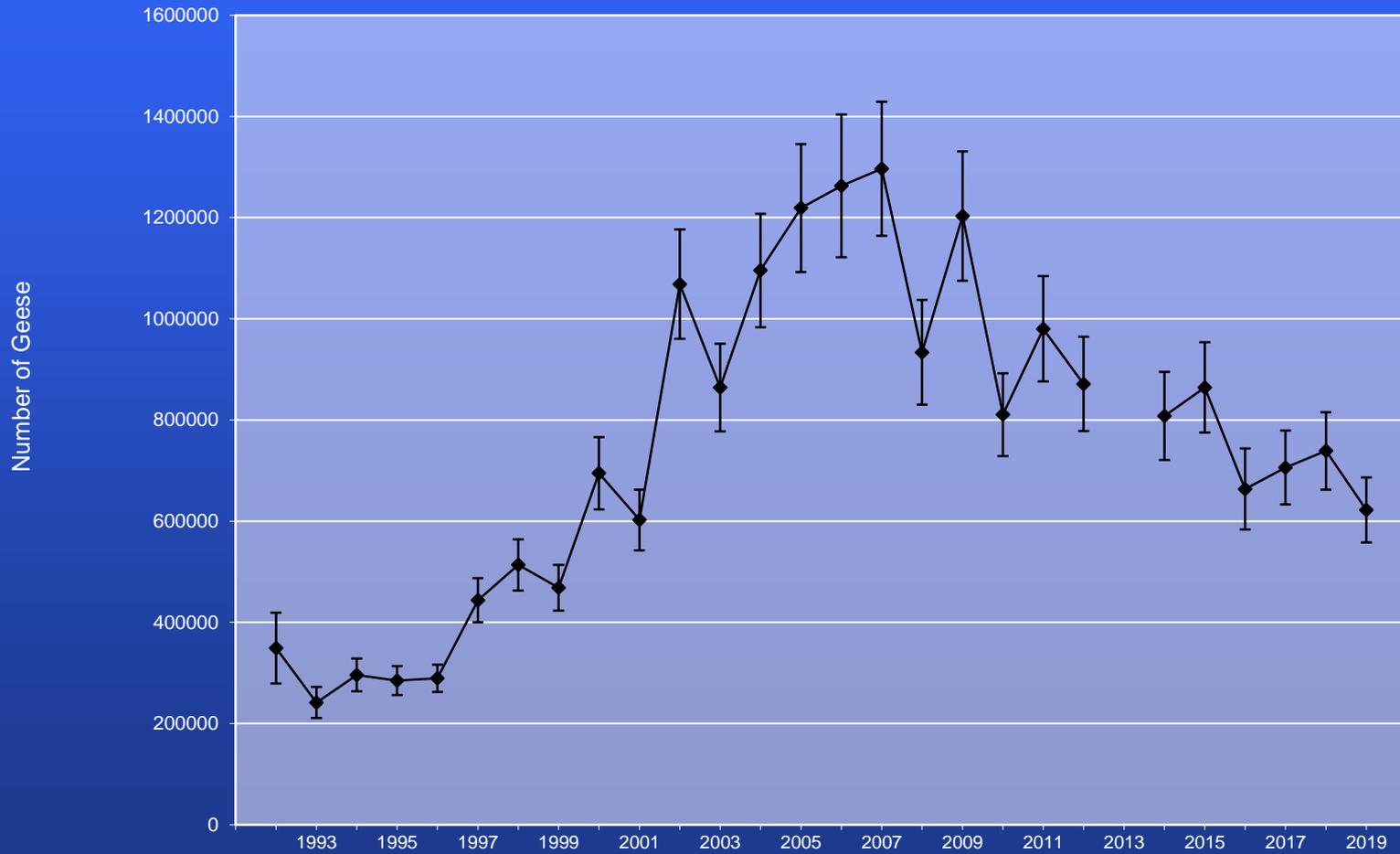
# AF Canada Goose Harvest Zones



# AP Breeding Pairs



# AP Total Population



05/23/06 22:22:52 GMT

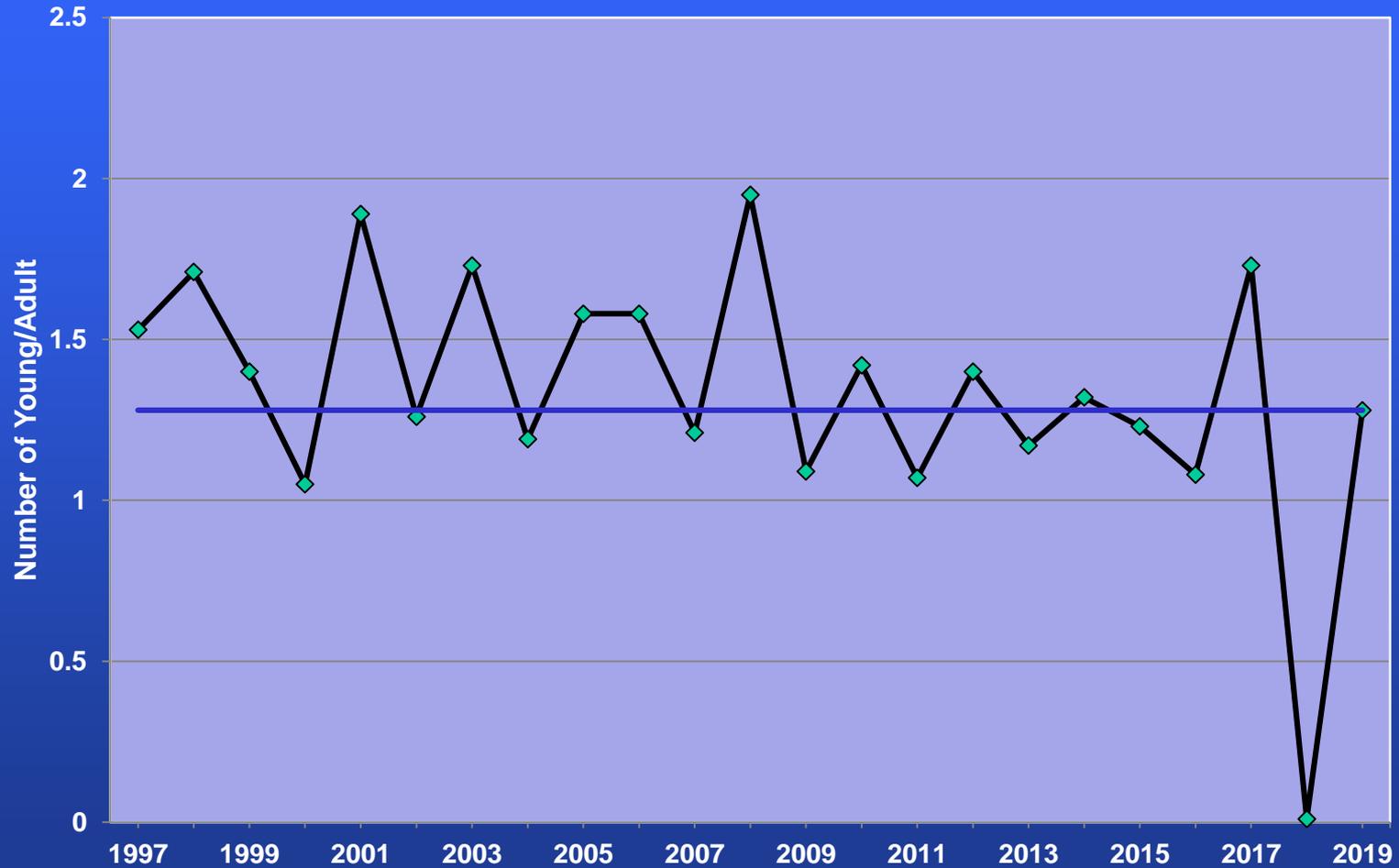


05/25/07 11:52:38 GMT

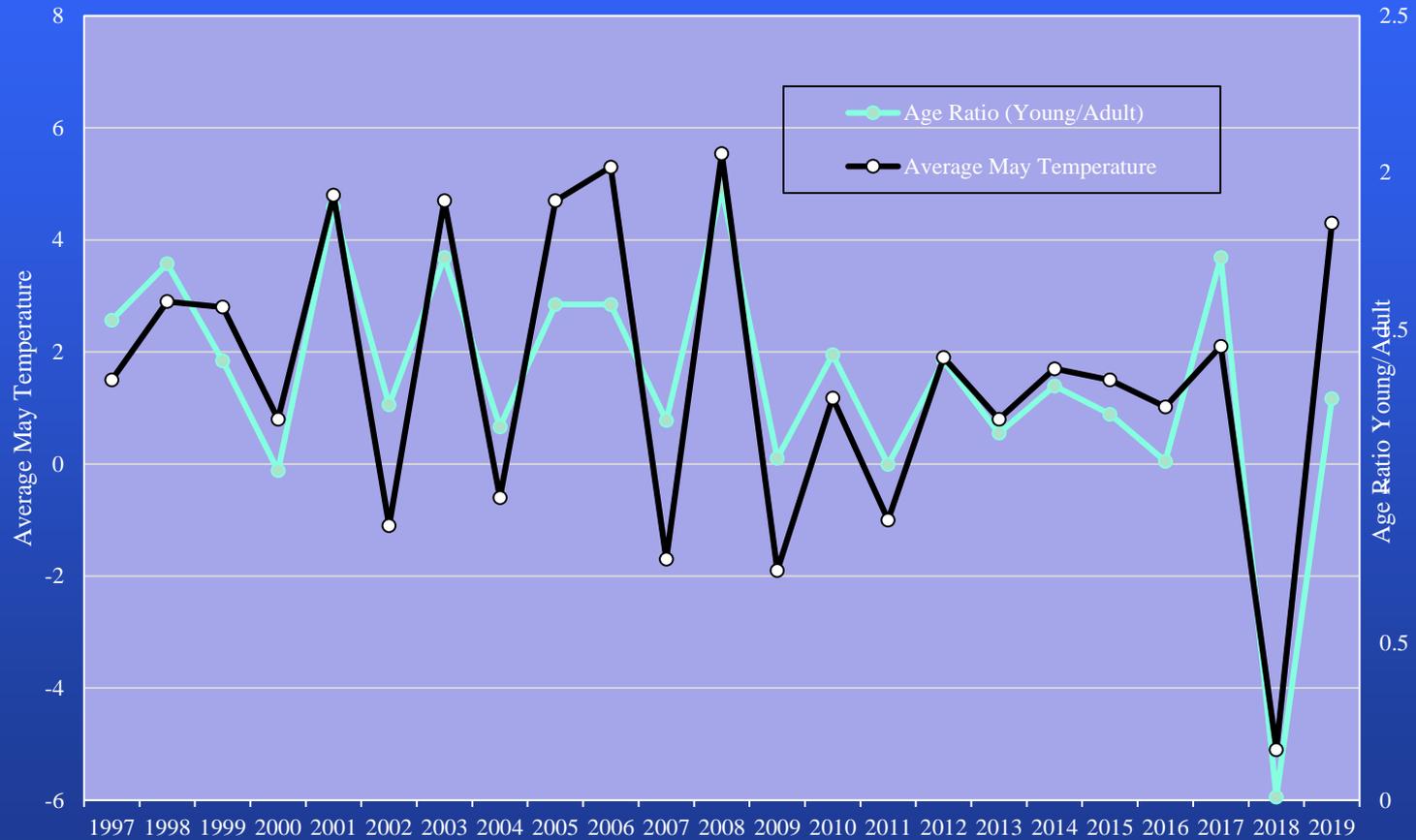




# Productivity (Young/adult)



# Productivity and May Temperature



# Summary of AP Status

- **Pair estimate at 119,000 (2018 – 112,000). 41% decline from 191,000 in 2016.**
- **Current 3-year average 131,000.**
- **Total population (622,063) down 52% from peak.**
- **Productivity has been well below average in 6 of last 11 years.**
- **Productivity in 2019 was average (1.28 young/adult).**

# AP Harvest Strategy

- **Strategy Thresholds:**
  - When 3-Year Average is  $\geq 225,000$  pairs, Liberal regulations may be considered.
  - When 3-Year Average is  $\geq 150,000$  but  $< 225,000$  pairs, Moderate regulations may be considered.
  - When 3-Year Average is  $\geq 60,000$  but  $< 150,000$  pairs, Restrictive regulations may be considered.
  - When pairs are  $< 60,000$ , should consider closure.
- Current 3-Year Average is 135,000 pairs.

# Season Selection Process

- **2019-2020 season was set in April, 2019.**
- **2020-2021 season**
  - **Atlantic Flyway Council, Sept. 15-20.**
  - **FWS Regulations Committee, Oct. 16-17.**
  - **Proposed federal frameworks, early 2020.**
  - **MGBAC early January WAC reviews late January.**
  - **Maryland public meeting (March) and comment period (mid February to mid March).**
  - **WAC vote late March with final season selection due to FWS, April 2020.**



**2020 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
ANNUAL SCHEDULE AND DRAFT MONTHLY AGENDA**

**JANUARY 15, 2020**

- Annual Election of the Chair and Vice Chair (Group)
- 2020 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto and Glenn Therres)
- 2020-2022 Hunting Regulation Concepts Update (Karina Stonesifer)

**FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

- 2020 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto and Glenn Therres)
- 2020 – 2021 Waterfowl Season Proposals (Josh Homyack)
- Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Report (Bill Harvey)

**MARCH 18, 2020**

- Field Day – Western Maryland
- 2020-2022 Hunting Regulation Proposals (Karina Stonesifer)
- Finalize Selections of 2020-2021 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons (Josh Homyack)
- 2020 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto and Glenn Therres)
- Call for Conservationist, Employee, and Farmer of the Year Nominations (Group Discussion)

**APRIL 15, 2020**

- 2020 Legislative Session Outcome (Paul Peditto and Glenn Therres)
- WAC Legislative Concepts Review (Group Discussion)
- Black Bear Management Plan (Harry Spiker)

**MAY 20, 2020 - NO MEETING SCHEDULED****JUNE 17, 2020**

- Wildlife and Heritage Service FY19 and FY20 Budget Update (Glenn Therres)
- WHS Administration Update (Glenn Therres)

**JULY 15, 2020 - NO MEETING SCHEDULED****AUGUST 19, 2020**

- Natural Heritage Program Update (Jonathan McKnight)
- Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee (Jonathan McKnight and Committee Chairperson)
- WHS Information and Education Program Update (Nancy Doran)

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 – FIELD DAY****OCTOBER 21, 2020**

- WHS Regional Operations Program Update (Tim Larney)
- Waterfowl Population Update (Josh Homyack)
- 2021 WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda – Approval

**NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

- Presentation of 2019 Conservationist of the Year Award (Paul Peditto)
- WHS Game Program Update (Karina Stonesifer and staff)

**DECEMBER 16, 2020 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED**