

Identifying and Addressing the Impacts of Marine Debris on Birds in the Gulf of Maine and Northeastern U.S.

Webinar Series:

Webinar #1, Report Findings, and Introduction to Implementation

Background & Agenda

February 10, 2021, 10-11:30am

Background:

In February 2021, University of Rhode Island graduate student, Michael Andranovich drafted a report, *Identifying and Addressing the Impacts of Marine Debris on Birds in the Gulf of Maine and Northeastern U.S.* (draft provided in Feb. 4 invitation e-mail), in partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Birds Program, and the NOAA Marine Debris Program. The report compiled available information on what is currently known about the impacts of marine debris on birds. This work directly supported Strategy 2.1 in the [Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan](#). While the report broadly details information gaps in understanding of impacts of marine debris on birds and strategies for addressing these impacts, it also conveys the need for additional work, though partner collaboration -- specifically, stepping down gaps and strategies so they can be implemented.

The purpose of this webinar series is to bring together partners with an interest/expertise in marine debris and/or birds that may not regularly interact in order to begin stepping down recommendations in the report into concrete actions that could lead to projects. With input from webinar participants, and follow-up discussions/targeted outreach, we intend to develop an **'implementation framework'** that identifies:

- 1) A set of top priority actions that could be undertaken to fill information gaps and address impacts of marine debris on birds in the Gulf of Maine
- 2) Clear objective(s) for each action
- 3) Steps that could be undertaken to initiate each action, including building off any existing materials from work already underway or completed
- 4) Potential stakeholders that could help undertake each action, including partners that have identified specific interest in a priority action(s)
- 5) A compilation of potential funding sources

The implementation framework will be included in a final version of the report anticipated to be released in early summer 2021, and widely circulated. Ideally, this report and framework will lead to collaborative projects that can fill research and conservation needs for birds in the Gulf of Maine region.

Objectives (Webinar 1):

- Review priorities pertaining to birds in the Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan
- Review current findings of the report *Identifying and Addressing the Impacts of Marine Debris on Birds in the Gulf of Maine and Northeastern U.S.*
- Outline a process for obtaining stakeholder involvement to create an implementation framework
- Begin to review and prioritize a) information gaps and b) strategies for addressing known impacts, which should be included in an implementation framework
- Begin to identify what is already being done within these areas, and potential key partners (including those who are not on the webinar)
- Identify interest from webinar participants to help flesh out actions and take a role in specific projects of interest

The webinar series will include another 1 to 2 discussion-based webinars (depending on partner interest and availability) with partners to flesh out details of the implementation framework.

Agenda (Webinar 1):

I) Overview of Webinar Series; Webinar Logistics & Objectives (5 min) [Caleb Spiegel, USFWS]

II) Introductions (10 minutes) [All, depending on # of webinar participants]

III) NOAA Marine Debris Program and Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan (15 minutes)
[Demi Fox, NOAA]

IV) Project & Report: *Identifying and Addressing the Impacts of Marine Debris on Birds in the Gulf of Maine and Northeastern U.S.* (25 minutes) [Michael Andranovich, University of Rhode Island]

V) Questions (5 minutes) [All]

VI) Group Discussion - Report Recommendations & Implementation (25 minutes) [All; facilitated by Caleb, Pam Loring (USFWS), & Michael]

(1) OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK CONCEPT

- Do you think a framework could help you and/or other partners you work with implement projects to undertake specific actions identified?

- What initial implementation 'steps' would be most useful to help initiate projects and undertake prompt action?
- Are there any missing components of a framework that we should consider?
- Any other impressions about an implementation framework concept?

(2) PRIORITIZING INFORMATION & DATA GAPS

- Which of these gaps do you think should be prioritized for action in the implementation framework?
- Of the priorities identified, what is already being done?

(3) PRIORITIZING STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING KNOWN IMPACTS

- Which of these gaps do you think should be prioritized for action in the implementation framework?
- Of the priorities identified, what is already being done?

(4) ENGAGING PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

- Are you interested in participating in 1 to 2 subsequent webinars (target dates - March) to further identify priorities and flesh out practical steps to include in an implementation framework?
- Are you interested in collaborating on development of a project to take action on a priority(ies) identified in an implementation framework?
- Do you have suggestions for other stakeholders not at the meeting that you believe should be represented? How best to engage these individuals and generate interest?

VII) Next steps & Wrap-up (5 minutes) [Caleb]