



# Bat Listing: Maine's Perspective

# Outline



- Background and what led to state listing
- Current stance/protections under the Maine Endangered Species Act (MESA)
- Current draft amendments to MESA
- Questions

# Maine's Listed Bats



## MESA listed

- Little brown bat – state endangered
- Northern long-eared bat – state endangered (and fed threatened)
- Eastern small-footed bat – state threatened

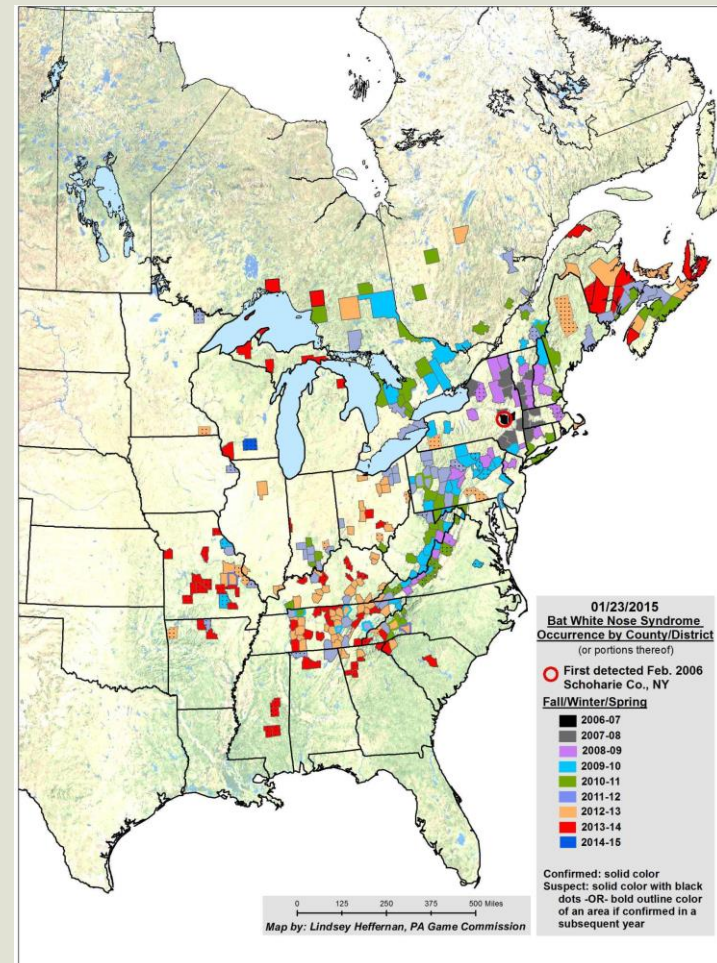


# What drove listing



## Disease

- *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd)
- Causal agent for White Nose Syndrome
- First documented NY 2006
- Spread across eastern NA



# What drove listing



## Evidence for listing

- 90–98% decline in hibernacula occurrence
- Evidence supported by
  - consultant data
  - other state reports
- Used information to petition legislature
- Officially listed October 15, 2015



# Current Provisions



## As MESA currently stands

- Protected from
  - take (killing in MESA terms)
  - harassment
- No essential habitat listed – may change
  - no known maternity sites
  - only 4 known hibernaculum already protected

# Current Provisions



- First listing simultaneous with USFWS
  - desire mesh of state/fed regulations
- Provide protection during vulnerable life stages
  - maternity period
  - hibernation

# Moving Forward



- Interest in protections/exemptions similar to federal 4-D
  - Legislative resolve brought forth by MFPC
  - report back to legislature by mid January
  - review identified need in MESA



# Potential MESA Changes



- MESA was lacking
  - exemption for take by rule (general activities)
  - Incidental Take Permit (large group)
- MESA amendment drafted
  - currently in legislative process
  - If approved, official 90 days after closure

# If Passed



- MESA would have two new provisions
  - 1) Exemption by rule under agreed conservation practices (ex. Federal 4-D)
    - ex. Tree harvesting
  - 2) Ability to create group ITP under conservation practices
    - ex. ADC, Mist Netters

# Conclusion



- Maine is focusing protection on maternity and hibernacula
- Maternity sites unknown but may change
- Desire for state rules to mirror federal 4-D
- Potential MESA amendments provide 4-D and ITP provisions under MESA



Questions?

