Endangered Species Act Eligibility Certification

TO: Town of North Andover Stormwater Management Program Files

FROM: Tighe & Bond

COPY: John Borgesi, P.E., Town Engineer

DATE: October 15, 2018

Tighe & Bond has completed the Endangered Species Eligibility Determination screening process in accordance with Part 1.9.1 and Appendix C of U.S. EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in Massachusetts (see Attachment A of this memorandum), effective July 1, 2018, and determined that the **Town of North Andover** meets **Criterion C**, where informal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) resulted in a finding that the stormwater discharges and discharge related activities will have "no affect" on listed species or critical habitat.

Tighe & Bond followed EPA's screening process required by the 2016 Small MS4 General Permit as follows:

Tighe & Bond went to the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website[1] and requested an Official Species List from the USFWS New England Ecological Services Field Office, included in Attachment B of this memorandum. The Official Species List for North Andover lists the following species that may occur or could potentially be affected by activities in the Town:

- Northern Long-eared Bat

The Official Species List documents that there are no critical habitats in North Andover.

Tighe & Bond then went to the USFWS New England Field Office website for Endangered Species Reviews/Consultations[2] and selected the Massachusetts state list[3] to review which Towns have federally-listed species. A copy of the list of Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species in Massachusetts is included in Attachment C to this memorandum. Based on review of this list, in Essex County the Northern Long-eared Bat is listed as potentially present statewide.

Tighe & Bond then reviewed Step 1 Part B of the USFWS endangered species consultation, and visited the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) species information and conservation website about the Northern Long-eared Bat[4].

The NHESP website included a map showing the known locations of the Northern Long-eared Bat within Massachusetts. Attachment D to this memorandum includes the NHESP NLEB Fact Sheet and a map showing there are no roost trees or hibernating locations within North Andover.

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[1] http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/
[2] https://www.fws.gov/newengland/EndangeredSpec-Consultation_Project_Review.htm
[3] https://www.fws.gov/newengland/pdfs/MA%20species%20by%20town.pdf
[4] http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/rare-mammals/northern-long-eared-bat.html

Based on the results of the NHESP website review, Tighe & Bond determined there is no potential habitat for any listed species within the action area and therefore no further coordination is required with the USFWS. Attachment E to this memorandum provides the results of Tighe & Bond's informal consultation on behalf of the Town of North Andover with USFWS, including a "no species present" letter that states "no species are known to occur in the project area".

Step 1 – Determine if you can meet USFWS Criterion A

"USFWS Criterion A: You can certify eligibility, according to USFWS Criterion A, for coverage by this permit if, upon completing the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) online system process, you printed and saved the preliminary determination which indicated that federally listed species or designated critical habitats are not present in the action area. See Attachment 1 to Appendix C for instructions on how to use IPaC."

No, the Town of North Andover's IPaC action area potentially contains the Northern Long-eared Bat, a federally listed species.

Step 2 – Determine if You Can Meet Eligibility USFWS Criteria B

"USFWS Criterion B: You can certify eligibility according to USFWS Criteria B for coverage by this permit if you answer "Yes" to **all** of the following questions:

1) Does your action area contain one or more of the following species: Sandplain gerardia, Small whorled Pogonia, American burying beetle, Dwarf wedgemussel, Northeastern bulrush, Piping Plover, Northern Red-bellied cooter, Bog Turtle, Roseate Tern, Puritan tiger beetle, and Northeastern beach tiger beetle?"

   No, the Town of North Andover's action area does not contain any of the above species based on the Official Species List provided by the USFWS New England Ecological Services Field Office.

Step 3 – Determine if You Can Meet Eligibility USFWS Criteria C

"You can certify eligibility according to USFWS Criterion C for coverage by this permit if you answer "Yes" to both of the following questions:

1) Does your action area contain one or more of the following species: Northern Long-eared Bat, Sandplain gerardia, Small whorled Pogonia and/or American burying beetle and does not contain any following species: Dwarf wedgemussel, Northeastern bulrush, Piping Plover, Northern Red-bellied cooter, Bog Turtle, Roseate Tern, Puritan tiger beetle, and Northeastern beach tiger beetle?

   Yes, the Town of North Andover's action area potentially contains the Northern Long-eared Bat, but none of the other subsequent species.

2) Did the assessment of your discharge and discharge related activities indicate that there would be "no affect" on listed species or critical habitat and EOA provided concurrence with your determination?

   Yes, Tighe & Bond performed an informal consultation with USFWS and determined that the Town's discharges and discharge related activities will have "no affect" on listed species or critical habitat (see discussion above).

3) Do you agree that if, during the course of the permit term, you plan to install a structural BMP not identified in the NOI that you will conduct an endangered species screening for the proposed site and contact the USFWS if you determine that the new activity "may affect" or is "not likely to adversely affect" listed species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the USFWS."

   Yes, during the course of the permit term the Town of North Andover agrees to conduct an endangered species screening for the proposed site and contact USFWS if they plan to install a structural BMP not identified in the NOI.

Tighe & Bond's review of all questions under Step 3 resulted in "Yes" and thereby we determined the Town of North Andover's action area meets the endangered species' eligibility requirements included in **Criterion C**.

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Attachment A

Appendix C of U.S. EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in Massachusetts

APPENDIX C
ENDANGERED SPECIES GUIDANCE

A. Background

In order to meet its obligations under the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and to promote the goals of those Acts, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking to ensure the activities regulated by this general permit do not adversely affect endangered and threatened species or critical habitat. Applicants applying for permit coverage must assess the impacts of their stormwater discharges and discharge-related activities on federally listed endangered and threatened species ("listed species") and designated critical habitat ("critical habitat") to ensure that those goals are met. Prior to obtaining general permit coverage, applicants must meet the ESA eligibility provisions of this permit by following the steps in this Appendix[1].

Applicants also have an independent ESA obligation to ensure that their activities do not result in any prohibited "take" of listed species[12]. The term "Take" is used in the ESA to include harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct. "Harm" is further defined to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. "Harass" is defined as intentional or negligent actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Many of the measures required in this general permit and in these instructions to protect species may also assist in ensuring that the applicant's activities do not result in a prohibited take of species in violation of section 9 of the ESA. If the applicant has plans or activities in an area where endangered and threatened species are located, they may wish to ensure that they are protected from potential take liability under ESA section 9 by obtaining an ESA section 10 permit or by requesting formal consultation under ESA section 7. Applicants that are unsure whether to pursue a section 10 permit or a section 7 consultation for takings protection should confer with the appropriate United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) office or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), (jointly the Services).

Currently, there are 20 species of concern for applicants applying for permit coverage, namely the Dwarf wedgemussel *(Alasmidonta heterodon)*, Northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*), Sandplain gerardia *(Agalinis acuta)*, Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*), Northern Red-bellied cooter (*Pseudemys rubriventis)*, Bog Turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*), Small whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), Puritan tiger beetle (*Cicindela puritana*), American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), Northeastern beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat *(Myotis septentriolis)*Atlantic Sturgeon *(Acipenser oxyrinchus*), Shortnose Sturgeon *(Acipenser brevirostrum)*, North Atlantic Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) Humpback Whale *(Megaptera novaengliae)*, Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus)*, Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle *(Lepidochelys kempii)*, Loggerhead Sea Turtle *(Caretta caretta)*, Leatherback Sea Turtle *(Dermochelys coriacea)*, and the Green Turtle *(Chelonia*

[1] EPA strongly encourages applicants to begin this process at the earliest possible stage to ensure the notification requirements for general permit coverage are complete upon Notice of Intent (NOI) submission.

[2] Section 9 of the ESA prohibits any person from "taking" a listed species (e.g. harassing or harming it) unless: (1) the taking is authorized through an "incidental take statement" as part of completion of formal consultation according to ESA section 7; (2) where an incidental take permit is obtained under ESA section 10 (which requires the development of a habitat conversion plan; or (3) where otherwise authorized or exempted under the ESA. This prohibition applies to all entities including private individuals, businesses, and governments.

mydas). The Atlantic Sturgeon, Shortnose Sturgeon, North Atlantic Right Whale, Humpback Whale, Fin Whale, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, Leatherback Sea Turtle and Green Turtle are listed under the jurisdiction of NMFS. The Dwarf wedgemussel, Northeastern bulrush, Sandplain gerardia, Piping Plover, Northern Red-bellied cooter, Bog Turtle, Small whorled Pogonia, Roseate Tern, Puritan tiger beetle, Northeastern beach tiger beetle, Northern Long-eared Bat and American burying beetle are listed under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Any applicant seeking coverage under this general permit, must consult with the Services where appropriate. When listed species are present, permit coverage is only available if EPA determines, or the applicant determines and EPA concurs, that the discharge or discharge related activities will have "no affect" on the listed species or critical habitat, or the applicant or EPA determines that the discharge or discharge related activities are "not likely to adversely affect" listed species or critical habitat and formal or informal consultation with the Services has been concluded and results in written concurrence by the Services that the discharge is "not likely to adversely affect" an endangered or threatened species or critical habitat.

EPA may designate the applicants as non-Federal representatives for the general permit for the purpose of carrying out formal or informal consultation with the Services (See 50 CFR §402.08 and §402.13). By terms of this permit, EPA has automatically designated operators as non-Federal representatives for the purpose of conducting formal or informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. EPA has not designated operators as non-Federal representatives for the purpose of conducting formal or informal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. EPA has determined that discharges from MS4s are not likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service. EPA has initiated informal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service on behalf of all permittees and no further action is required by permittees in order to fulfill ESA requirements of this permit related to species under the jurisdiction of NMFS

B. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ESA Eligibility Process

Before submitting a notice of intent (NOI) for coverage by this permit, applicants must determine whether they meet the ESA eligibility criteria by following the steps in Section B of this Appendix. Applicants that cannot meet the eligibility criteria in Section B must apply for an individual permit.

The USFWS ESA eligibility requirements of this permit relating to the Dwarf wedgemussel, Northeastern bulrush, Sandplain gerardia, Piping Plover, Northern Red-bellied cooter, Bog Turtle, Small whorled Pogonia, Roseate Tern, Puritan tiger beetle, Northeastern beach tiger beetle, Northern Long-eared Bat and American burying beetle may be satisfied by documenting that one of the following criteria has been met:

USFWS Criterion A: No endangered or threatened species or critical habitat are in proximity to the stormwater discharges or discharge related activities.

USFWS Criterion B: In the course of formal or informal consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, under section 7 of the ESA, the consultation resulted in either a no jeopardy opinion (formal consultation) or a written concurrence by USFWS on a finding that the stormwater discharges and

discharge related activities are "not likely to adversely affect" listed species or critical habitat (informal consultation).

USFWS Criterion C: Using the best scientific and commercial data available, the effect of the stormwater discharge and discharge related activities on listed species and critical habitat have been evaluated. Based on those evaluations, a determination is made by EPA, or by the applicant and affirmed by EPA, that the stormwater discharges and discharge related activities will have "no affect" on any federally threatened or endangered listed species or designated critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the USFWS.

1. The Steps to Determine if the USFWS ESA Eligibility Criteria Can Be Met

To determine eligibility, you must assess the potential effects of your known stormwater discharges and discharge related activities on listed species or critical habitat, PRIOR to completing and submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI). You must follow the steps outlined below and document the results of your eligibility determination.

Step 1 – Determine if you can meet USFWS Criterion A

USFWS Criterion A: You can certify eligibility, according to USFWS Criterion A, for coverage by this permit if, upon completing the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) online system process, you printed and saved the preliminary determination which indicated that federally listed species or designated critical habitats are not present in the action area. See Attachment 1 to Appendix C for instructions on how to use IPaC.

If you have met USFWS Criterion A skip to Step # 4.

If you have not met USFWS Criterion A, go to Step # 2.

Step 2 – Determine if You Can Meet Eligibility USFWS Criteria B

USFWS Criterion B: You can certify eligibility according to USFWS Criteria B for coverage by this permit if you answer "Yes" to **all** of the following questions:

1) Does your action area contain one or more of the following species: Sandplain gerardia, Small whorled Pogonia, American burying beetle, Dwarf wedgemussel, Northeastern bulrush, Piping Plover, Northern Red-bellied cooter, Bog Turtle, Roseate Tern, Puritan tiger beetle, and Northeastern beach tiger beetle?
   AND
2) Did your assessment of the discharge and discharge related activities indicate that the discharge or discharge related activities "may affect" or are "not likely to adversely affect" listed species or critical habitat?
   AND
3) Did you contact the USFWS and did the formal or informal consultation result in either a "no jeopardy" opinion by the USFWS (for formal consultation) or concurrence by the

USFWS that your activities would be "not likely to adversely affect" listed species or critical habitat (for informal consultation)?
AND

4) Do you agree to implement all measures upon which the consultation was conditioned?
5) Do you agree that if, during the course of the permit term, you plan to install a structural BMP not identified in the NOI that you will re-initiate informal or formal consultation with USFWS as necessary?

Use the guidance below Step 3 to understand effects determination and to answer these questions.

If you answered "Yes" to all four questions above, you have met eligibility USFWS Criteria B. Skip to Step 4.

If you answered "No" to any of the four questions above, go to Step 3.

Step 3 – Determine if You Can Meet Eligibility USFWS Criterion C

USFWS Criterion C: You can certify eligibility according to USFWS Criterion C for coverage by this permit if you answer "Yes" to both of the following question:

1) Does your action area contain one or more of the following species: Northern Long-eared Bat, Sandplain gerardia, Small whorled Pogonia and/or American burying beetle and **does not** contain one any following species: Dwarf wedgemussel, Northeastern bulrush, Piping Plover, Northern Red-bellied cooter, Bog Turtle, Roseate Tern, Puritan tiger beetle, and Northeastern beach tiger beetle?[3]
OR
2) Did the assessment of your discharge and discharge related activities and indicate that there would be "no affect" on listed species or critical habitat and EPA provided concurrence with your determination?
3) Do you agree that if, during the course of the permit term, you plan to install a structural BMP not identified in the NOI that you will to conduct an endangered species screening for the proposed site and contact the USFWS if you determine that the new activity "may affect" or is "not likely to adversely affect" listed species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the USFWS.

Use the guidance below to understand effects determination and to answer these questions.

If you answered "Yes" to both the question above, you have met eligibility USFWS Criterion C. Go to Step 4.

If you answered "No" to either of the questions above, you are not eligible for coverage by this permit. You must submit an application for an individual permit for your stormwater discharges. (See 40 CFR 122.21).

USFWS Effects Determination Guidance:

If you are unable to certify eligibility under USFWS Criterion A, you must assess whether your stormwater discharges and discharge-related activities "may affect", will have "no affect" or are "not likely to adversely affect" listed species or critical habitat. "Discharge-related activities" include: activities which cause, contribute to, or result in point source stormwater pollutant discharges; and measures to provide treatment for stormwater discharges including the siting, construction and operational procedures to control, reduce or prevent water pollution. Please be aware that no protection from incidental take liability is provided under this criterion.

The scope of effects to consider will vary with each system. If you are having difficulty in determining whether your system is likely to cause adverse effects to a listed species or critical habitat, you should contact the USFWS for assistance. In order to complete the determination of effects it may be necessary to follow the formal or informal consultation procedures in section 7 of the ESA.

Upon completion of your assessment, document the results of your effects determination. If your results indicate that stormwater discharges or discharge related activities will have "no affect" on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat and EPA concurs with your determination, you are eligible under USFWS Criterion C of this Appendix. Your determination may be based on measures that you implement to avoid, eliminate, or minimized adverse effects.

If the determination is "May affect" or "not likely to adversely affect" you must contact the USFWS to discuss your findings and measures you could implement to avoid, eliminate, or minimize adverse effects. If you and the USFWS reach agreement on measures to avoid adverse effects, you are eligible under USFWS Criterion B. Any terms and/or conditions to protect listed species and critical habitat that you relied on in order to complete an adverse effects determination, must be incorporated into your Storm Water Management Program (required by this permit) and implemented in order to maintain permit eligibility.

If endangered species issues cannot be resolved: If you cannot reach agreement with the USFWS on measures to avoid or eliminate adverse effects then you are not eligible for coverage under this permit. You must seek coverage under an individual permit.

Effects from stormwater discharges and discharge-related activities which could pose an adverse effect include:

- *Hydrological:* Stormwater discharges may cause siltation, sedimentation, or induce other changes in receiving waters such as temperature, salinity or pH. These effects will vary with the amount of stormwater discharged and the volume and condition of the receiving water. Where a discharge constitutes a minute portion of the total volume of the receiving water, adverse hydrological effects are less likely.
- *Habitat:* Excavation, site development, grading and other surface disturbance activities, including the installation or placement of treatment equipment may adversely affect listed species or their habitat. Stormwater from the small MS4 may inundate a listed species habitat.

- *Toxicity:* In some cases, pollutants in the stormwater may have toxic effects on listed species.

Step 4 - Document Results of the Eligibility Determination

Once the USFWS ESA eligibility requirements have been met, you shall include documentation of USFWS ESA eligibility in the Storm Water Management Program required by the permit. Documentation for the various eligibility criteria are as follows:

- USFWS Criterion A: A copy of the IPaC generated preliminary determination letter indicating that no listed species or critical habitat is present within your action area. You shall also include a statement on how you determined that no listed species or critical habitat are in proximity to your stormwater system or discharges.
- USFWS Criterion B: A dated copy of the USFWS letter of concurrence on a finding of "no jeopardy" (for formal consultation) or "not likely to adversely affect" (for informal consultation) regarding the ESA section 7 consultation.
- USFWS Criterion C: A dated copy of the EPA concurrence with the operator's determination that the stormwater discharges and discharge-related activities will have "no affect" on listed species or critical habitat.

C. Submittal of Notice of Intent

Once the ESA eligibility requirements of Part C of this Appendix have been metyoumay submit the Notice of Intent indicating which Criterion you have met to be eligible for permit coverage. Signature and submittal of the NOI constitutes your certification, under penalty of law, of eligibility for permit coverage under 40 CFR 122.21.

D. Duty to Implement Terms and Conditions upon which Eligibility was Determined

You must comply with any terms and conditions imposed under the ESA eligibility requirements to ensure that your stormwater discharges and discharge related activities do not pose adverse effects or jeopardy to listed species and/or critical habitat. You must incorporate such terms and conditions into your Storm Water Management Program as required by this permit. If the ESA eligibility requirements of this permit cannot be met, then you may not receive coverage under this permit and must apply for an individual permit.

E. Services Information

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Office

National websites for Endangered Species Information:
Endangered Species home page: http://endangered.fws.gov
ESA Section 7 Consultations: http://endangered.fws.gov/consultation/index.html
Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPAC): http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/

U.S. FWS – Region 5
Supervisor

New England Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301

Natural Heritage Network

The Natural Heritage Network comprises 75 independent heritage program organizations located in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 12 countries and territories located throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. These programs gather, manage, and distribute detailed information about the biological diversity found within their jurisdictions. Developers, businesses, and public agencies use natural heritage information to comply with environmental laws and to improve the environmental sensitivity of economic development projects. Local governments use the information to aid in land use planning.

The Natural Heritage Network is overseen by NatureServe, the Network's parent organization, and is accessible on-line at: http://www.natureserve.org/nhp/us_programs.htm, which provides websites and other access to a large number of specific biodiversity centers.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife IPaC system instructions

Use the following protocol to determine if any federally listed species or designated critical habitats under USFWS jurisdiction exist in your action area:

Enter your project specific information into the "Initial Project Scoping" feature of the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system mapping tool, which can be found at the following location:

http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/

a. Indicate the action area[1] for the MS4 by either:
    a. Drawing the boundary on the map or by uploading a shapefile.
    Select "Continue"

c. Click on the "SEE RESOURCE LIST" button and on the next screen you can export a trust resources list.This will provided a list of natural resources of concern, which will include an Endangered Species Act Species list. You may also request an official species list under "REGULATORY DOCUMENTS" Save copies and retain for your records

[1] The action area is defined by regulation as all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action (50 CFR §402.02). This analysis is not limited to the "footprint" of the action nor is it limited by the Federal agency's authority. Rather, it is a biological determination of the reach of the proposed action on listed species. Subsequent analyses of the environmental baseline, effects of the action, and levels of incidental take are based upon the action area.

The documentation used by a Federal action agency to initiate consultation should contain a description of the action area as defined in the Services' regulations and explained in the Services' consultation handbook. If the Services determine that the action area as defined by the action agency is incorrect, the Services should discuss their rationale with the agency or applicant, as appropriate. Reaching agreement on the description of the action area is desirable but ultimately the Services can only consult when an action area is defined properly under the regulations.

For storm water discharges or discharge related activities, the action area should encompass the following:

- The immediate vicinity of, or nearby, the point of discharge into receiving waters.
- The path or immediate area through which or over which storm water flows from the municipality to the point of discharge into the receiving water. This includes areas in the receiving water downstream from the point of discharge.
- Areas that may be impacted by construction or repair activities. This extends as far as effects related to noise (from construction equipment, power tools, etc.) and light (if work is performed at night) may reach.

The action area will vary with the size and location of the outfall pipe, the nature and quantity of the storm water discharges, and the type of receiving waters, among other factors.

Attachment B

Town of North Andover IPaC Official Species List

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104
http://www.fws.gov/newengland

In Reply Refer To: September 25, 2018
Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2018-SLI-3205
Event Code: 05E1NE00-2018-E-07501
Project Name: North Andover NOI

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm; http://www.towerkill.com; and http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
(603) 223-2541

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2018-SLI-3205

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2018-E-07501

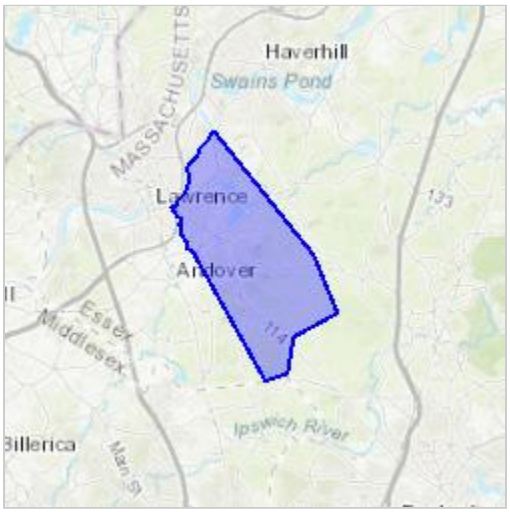
Project Name: North Andover NOI

Project Type: Regulation Promulgation

Project Description: This project is applying for coverage under the 2016 small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) General Permit. The project consists of the entire area of the Town of North Andover's MS4 that falls within the urbanized area of the town. Based on EPA's 2016 MS4 General Permit, North Andover must assess the impacts of the stormwater discharges and discharge-related activities on endangered and threatened species and designated critical habitats that fall within the MS4.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/place/42.67217548696619 6N71.08363101820792W



Counties: Essex, MA | Middlesex, MA

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 1 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Attachment C

Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species in Massachusetts

FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

COUNTY	SPECIES	FEDERAL STATUS	GENERAL LOCATION/HABITAT	TOWNS
Barnstable	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	All Towns
	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	All Towns
	Northeastern beach tiger beetle	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Chatham
	Sandplain gerardia	Endangered	Open areas with sandy soils.	Sandwich and Falmouth.
	Northern Red-bellied Cooter	Endangered	Inland Ponds and Rivers	Bourne (north of the Cape Cod Canal)
	Red Knot[1]	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Berkshire	Bog Turtle	Threatened	Wetlands	Egremont and Sheffield
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Bristol	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Fairhaven, Dartmouth, Westport
	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	Fairhaven, New Bedford, Dartmouth, Westport
	Northern Red-bellied Cooter	Endangered	Inland Ponds and Rivers	Taunton
	Red Knot[1]	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Dukes	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	All Towns
	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	All Towns
	Northeastern beach tiger beetle	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Aquinnah and Chilmark
	Sandplain gerardia	Endangered	Open areas with sandy soils.	West Tisbury
	Red Knot[1]	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide

Updated 02/05/2016

FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

COUNTY	SPECIES	FEDERAL STATUS	GENERAL LOCATION/HABITAT	TOWNS
Essex	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Gloucester, Essex and Manchester
	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Gloucester, Essex, Ipswich, Rowley, Revere, Newbury, Newburyport and Salisbury
	Red Knot[1]	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Franklin	Northeastern bulrush	Endangered	Wetlands	Montague, Warwick
	Dwarf wedgemussel	Endangered	Mill River	Whately
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Hampshire	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Hadley
	Puritan tiger beetle	Threatened	Sandy beaches along the Connecticut River	Northampton and Hadley
	Dwarf wedgemussel	Endangered	Rivers and Streams.	Hatfield, Amherst and Northampton
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Hampden	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Southwick
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Middlesex	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Groton
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Nantucket	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Nantucket
	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	Nantucket
	American burying beetle	Endangered	Upland grassy meadows	Nantucket
	Red Knot[1]	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide

Updated 02/05/2016

FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

COUNTY	SPECIES	FEDERAL STATUS	GENERAL LOCATION/HABITAT	TOWNS
Plymouth	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Scituate, Marshfield, Duxbury, Plymouth, Wareham and Mattapoisett
	Northern Red-bellied Cooter	Endangered	Inland Ponds and Rivers	Kingston, Middleborough, Carver, Plymouth, Bourne, Wareham, Halifax, and Pembroke
	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	Plymouth, Marion, Wareham, and Mattapoisett.
	Red Knot[1]	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Suffolk	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Revere, Winthrop
	Red Knot[1]	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Worcester	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Leominster
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened Final 4(d) Rule	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide

[1]Migratory only, scattered along the coast in small numbers

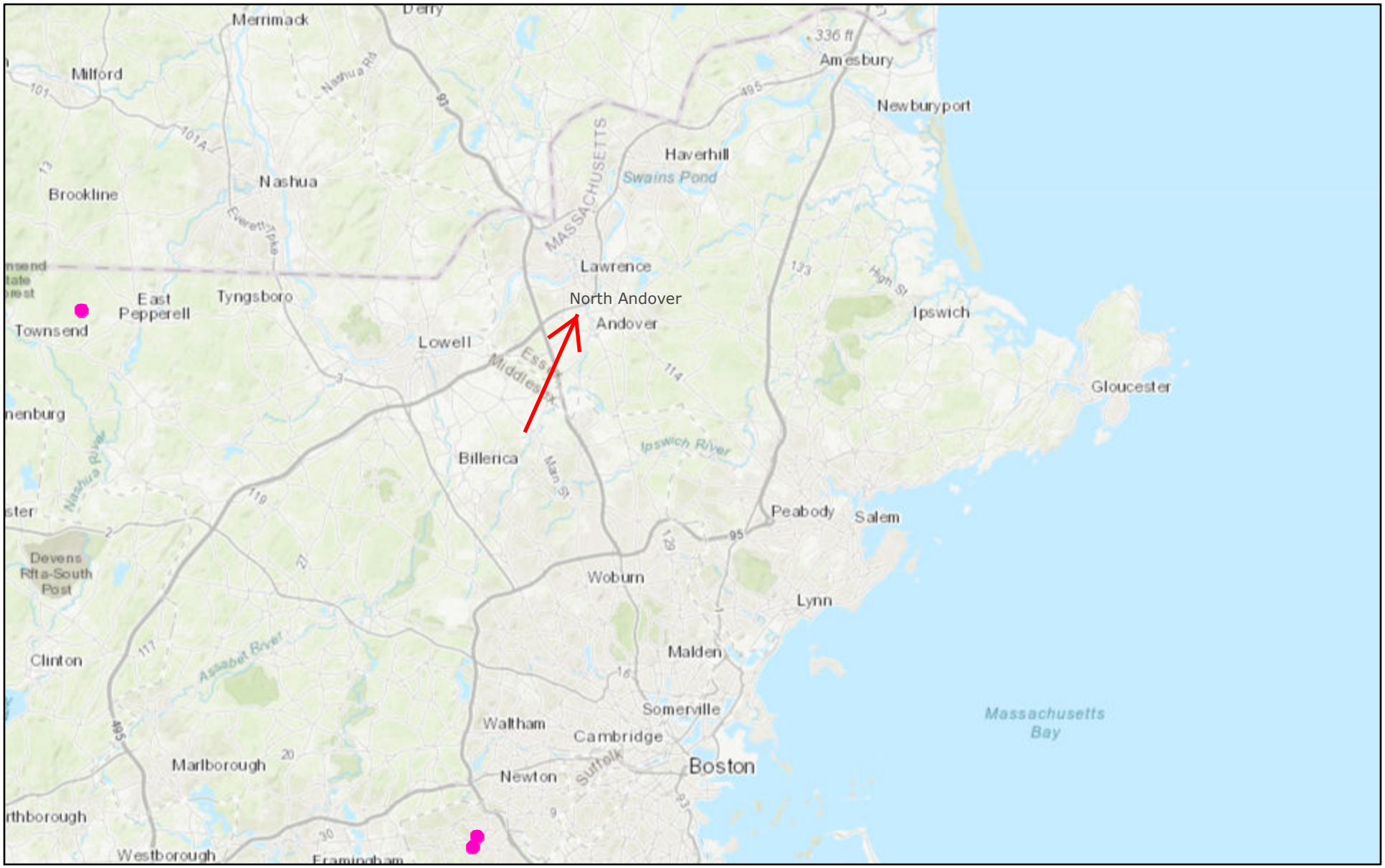
-Eastern cougar and gray wolf are considered extirpated in Massachusetts.
-Endangered gray wolves are not known to be present in Massachusetts, but dispersing individuals from source populations in Canada may occur statewide.
-Critical habitat for the Northern Red-bellied Cooter is present in Plymouth County.

Updated 02/05/2016

Attachment D

Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Northern Long-eared Bat Hibernaculum Location Map and Fact Sheet

NHESP Northern Long-eared Bat Location



October 12, 2018

Statewide NLEB Symbology

- Hibernaculum
- MA Northern Long-eared Bat Winter Hibernacula (with ¼ mile buffer)

1:577,791

0 3.5 7 14 mi

0 5 10 20 km

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS,

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

www.mass.gov/nhesp

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

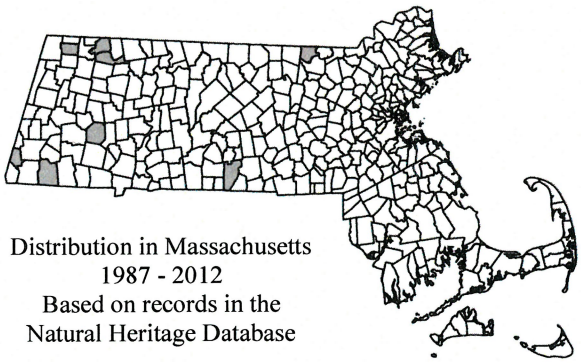
Northern Myotis
Myotis septentrionalis

State Status: **Endangered**
Federal Status: **Threatened**

DESCRIPTION: The Northern Myotis is a small bat with large ears, which when pushed forward extend at least 4 mm past its nose. Its fur and wing membranes are light brown, giving it an overall somewhat uniform brown appearance. The hairs on its back are bicolored, with a dark base and lighter tip. The Northern Myotis averages 50-95 mm in total length, with a tail of 35-42 mm. In weight, it averages 5-8 g. This bat is typically found roosting in trees and feeding in forested habitats, but may occasionally be found in human habitations.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The best diagnostic character to distinguish the Northern Myotis from other species in Massachusetts is its long ears. The rare Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*, Endangered) and Indiana Myotis (*Myotis sodalis*, Endangered, federally Endangered) are similar in appearance, but have shorter ears which typically do not extend beyond their nose when pushed forward. The tragus, which is a fleshy projection which sticks up in front of the ear opening, is long and narrowly pointed in the Northern Myotis, while it is shorter and blunt in the Little Brown Myotis. The Little Brown Myotis also has glossier fur and a shorter tail relative to its body length. The Indiana Myotis has a keeled calcar (a ridge of cartilage between the foot and the tail), which the Northern Myotis lacks. Other features of interest in identification include the bat's hairless interfemoral membrane (the skin stretching between the legs and tail) and lack of a black face mask (which is characteristic of Small-footed Myotis, *Myotis leibii*, Endangered).

Photo: Tammy Ciesla, MassWildlife



Distribution in Massachusetts
1987 - 2012
Based on records in the
Natural Heritage Database

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS: In the warmer months, colonies of Northern Myotis may be found roosting and foraging in forested areas. Preferred roosts are in clustered stands of large trees, especially in live or dead hardwoods with large, tall cavities. These bats are found in other tree roosts as well, and occasionally in human-made structures. Northern Myotis forage under the forest canopy in structurally complex habitats, often above small ponds, vernal pools or streams, along gravel paths or roads, and at the forest edge. The bats are widespread in Massachusetts, and have been found in 11

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA; tel: 508-389-6300; fax: 508-389-7890; www.mass.gov/dfw

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.
www.mass.gov/nhesp

of 14 counties. In winter, Northern Myotis hibernate in natural caves and abandoned mines, preferring habitats where the humidity is so high that water droplets sometimes cover their fur. Winter hibernacula (hibernation sites) have been reported in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Middlesex, and Worcester counties.

RANGE: The Northern Myotis is found across forested parts of the eastern United States and Canada, west to British Columbia, Wyoming, and Montana, and south into Florida. It was historically common in New England, the Canadian Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario, and uncommon in the western extremes of its range.

LIFE CYCLE/BEHAVIOR: In the summer months, Northern Myotis emerge at dusk from daytime roosts for the first in a series of feeding flights. Their long tails and large wing membranes allow the bats to fly slowly and navigate through cluttered environments. These special adaptations also enable them to glean prey from foliage, in addition to catching insects on the fly. These bats locate resting insects through a combination of passive listening and the emission of high frequency echolocation calls.

Between August and October, the body weight of Northern Myotis increases by up to 45%, as they store fat for winter. In late summer, the bats begin to "swarm" around the entrances of caves, and are thought to be testing the air of possible hibernacula. This is the time when mating occurs, with females storing the sperm within their bodies until spring. By early November, the bats enter hibernation sites. Their metabolisms slow and they enter torpor, but will rouse occasionally throughout the winter to drink water. Northern Myotis share caves with a number of other species, but tend to hibernate singly or in small groups in deep cracks or crevices. They return to the same hibernacula in multiple years, but may not hibernate in the same location every year. Little data are available on migration, but the bats are known to travel up to 56 km from foraging sites to winter hibernacula.

Females bear and rear single young from mid-May through July. The longevity record for the Northern Myotis is 18 years.

POPULATION STATUS IN MASSACHUSETTS, INCLUDING THREATS: The Northern Myotis is listed as Endangered under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. All listed species are protected from killing, collecting, possessing, or sale and from activities that would destroy habitat and thus directly or indirectly cause mortality or disrupt critical behaviors. In addition, listed animals are specifically protected from activities that disrupt nesting, breeding, feeding, or migration.

Once a common species in the northern United States, populations of the Northern Myotis have been devastated by the spread of White-nose Syndrome. Populations in infected hibernacula in the Northeast have suffered catastrophic losses of 90-100%. White-nose Syndrome is caused by a newly described fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which is believed to be a non-native species accidently introduced from caves in western Europe. European species of bats have co-evolved with this fungus, so they have a high degree of immunity. The fungus grows over bats while they hibernate, causing them to rouse from dormancy frequently, lose valuable stored fat, and fail to survive the winter. The fungus is believed to be passed from cave to cave primarily by the movements of breeding male bats, but human transport is also thought to be responsible for the infection of some hibernacula.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working in concert with government and non-profit groups to understand the spread of the fungus and potential for stopping its spread, as well as exploring opportunities for captive breeding of the most vulnerable species. Access to suitable undisturbed hibernacula is essential to the survival of the Northern Myotis, and protection of known sites is paramount. Human disturbance of hibernacula can be discouraged or prevented with the use of gated entrances, in order to avoid arousal of hibernating bats and the spread of fungal spores.

REFERENCES:

Caceres, M.C., and R.M. Barclay. 2000. Myotis septentrionalis. *Mammalian Species* 634: 1-4.

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Hamilton, Jr., W.J., and J.O. Whitaker, Jr. 1979. *Mammals of the Eastern United States*, Second Edition. Cornell University Press: Ithaca, NY.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 2012. "White-nose Syndrome." http://whitenosesyndrome.org/

Updated 2015

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.
www.mass.gov/nhesp

Attachment E

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service New England Field Office “No Species Present” Review Letter

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5087
http://www.fws.gov/newengland

January 8, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

This project was reviewed for the presence of federally listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat per instructions provided on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New England Field Office website:

http://www.fws.gov/newengland/EndangeredSpec-Consultation.htm (accessed January 2018)

Based on information currently available to us, no federally listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area(s). Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required. No further Endangered Species Act coordination is necessary for a period of one year from the date of this letter, unless additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact David Simmons of this office at 603-227-6425 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas R. Chapman
Supervisor
New England Field Office