

Sportsman's Pocket Guide to Climate Change in



Maine

3 Iconic Species & Habitats at Risk

Economic Benefits

Climate change poses a serious threat to Maine's bountiful fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. From changing seasonal rhythms that throw off hunting seasons to increasing temperatures that cancel ice-fishing seasons, climate change impacts on natural resources threaten Maine's economy.

Every year, over 1 million people spend over \$1.4 billion on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in Maine. The value of ice fishing, moose, and other wildlife in Maine goes well beyond the economics of recreation, providing the cultural identity that keep people and businesses in the state.



Waterfowl One of the most important factors in determining the overall population of migratory waterfowl species from one year to the next is breeding success. Adequate water conditions are so important to reproduction that the number of late-spring wetlands in critical waterfowl breeding areas is monitored annually. With climate change likely to affect wetland habitats across North America, the waterfowl population could be severely harmed.



Yellow Perch Climate change has already affected the long tradition of winter ice fishing for yellow perch and other species. The mild 2006-2007 winter in the northern states kept anxious anglers on the shores waiting for safe ice. Fishing tournaments were cancelled and the sale of fishing licenses dropped.



Brook Trout The cold water streams of the Appalachian Mountains harbor the highly sought after brook trout. Because brook trout are unable to tolerate waters above about 72oF, climate change is projected to dramatically reduce their habitat, as well as that of other trout species across much of North America.

Maine's wildlife and natural resources are the backbone of Maine's economy. In addition to providing essential services like safe drinking water and clean air, these resources sustain the state's booming hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation industry.

-Annual Participants in Wildlife Recreation:

1 million

-Consumer Spending:

\$1.5 million

-Jobs Created:

24,859

-Funding for ME Natural Resources in Clean Energy and Climate Legislation:

\$8 million avg. per year

Source: 2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey on Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation

Call for Urgent Action

The single most important action to protect species and wildlife at risk from climate change is for our local, state, and national leaders to implement comprehensive clean energy and climate policies. These policies must cap and then reduce carbon pollution as well as safeguard America's natural resources. In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the US must reduce emissions by around 80% by mid-century, and as much as possible in the near term.

State-Based Solutions:

In partnership with Maine Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, and Maine Dept of Transportation, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is completing a statewide analysis of existing cover conditions and fragmenting features to identify higher value habitat linkages at a landscape scale. This will be used to help inform town land use planning and prepare them with the best available knowledge regarding how to preserve habitat connectivity to provide for shifts in species populations and habitat types resulting from climate change.

Safeguarding Wildlife & Natural Resources

To address the impacts we are already seeing on wildlife and habitat and to confront the inevitable impacts of climate change on our natural resources, comprehensive clean energy and climate policies must include funding to safeguard fish, wildlife and natural resources upon which we all rely. These funds should be provided through the revenue generated by the clean energy and climate policies and be dedicated to the federal, state and tribal agencies that manage natural resources. This funding will protect our natural resource based economy, and create tens of thousands of new "green" jobs – restoring wetlands and streams, removing invasive species, building and restoring wildlife corridors, and protecting habitat and natural watersheds.

The following groups support passing comprehensive climate and energy legislation this year. In order to safeguard fish, wildlife, and their habitats, we urge that legislation must include both reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and dedication of allowance value for natural resources adaptation programs.

National Hunting and Fishing Groups

*American Fisheries Society
*American Fly Fishing Trade Association
*American Sportfishing Association
*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
*Berkley Conservation Institute
*Campfire Club
*Dallas Safari Club
*Ducks Unlimited
*Houston Safari Club
*Izaak Walton League of America
*Mule Deer Foundation
*National Trappers Association
*National Wildlife Federation
*Pheasants Forever
*Quality Deer Management Association
*The Wildlife Society
*Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
*Trout Unlimited
*Wildlife Forever
*Wildlife Management Institute

Maine Conservation Groups

Downeast Audubon
*Friends of Acadia
*Friends of Maine Seabird Islands
Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge
*Friends of Sunhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
*Maine Audubon
*Natural Resources Council of Maine
*Talking Federation
*The Chewonki Foundation
*The Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
*Weatherby's Resort
*Wildlife Alliance of Maine

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