Integrating and implementing climate change into Northeast and Midwest State Wildlife Action Plans

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Topic Areas covered:

1. Climate change in the Northeast and Midwest U.S.
2. Biological responses to regional climate impacts
3. Species and habitats at greatest risk and most vulnerable to climate impacts
4. Scale-appropriate adaptation strategies and actions
How we envisioned the report being used

- Guide for SWAP writing and revisions on climate change
- Direct use of text and figures
- Demonstration of the applicability of existing climate and adaptation tools

- A regional guide and resource on:
  - What has already been done
  - Ongoing adaptation work
  - What is known / not known
1. 60+ climate variables
2. Literature search of climate impacts on 367 RSGCN
3. 25 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments spanning nearly 1000 species and 82 habitats
4. Over 960 adaptation strategies and actions organized by scale, target resource, and climate stressor
5. Case studies of local scale tools, projects and partnerships focused on regional climate adaptation
How was the NE CSC report used by States and incorporated into the 2015 SWAPs?

8 out of 22 (36%) Northeastern states either cited or incorporated data, text and figures from NE CSC report (CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, PA, VA, VT)

“(The report) has really helped us think more clearly in this - AND definitely helped us in making the decision to separate climate change from the threats chapter into its own Chapter” – MD Dept. of Natural Resources
Next steps: opportunities for implementing climate adaptation strategies and actions

**Recent activities**

- NEAFWA Threat Assessment funded by Regional Conservation Needs Grant Program
- Engagement / presentations to SWAP Coordinators and NEFWDTC
- NE CSC Regional Science Meeting: SWAP-focused session
- NEAFWA letter outlining climate science needs

**Outcomes and ongoing initiatives**

- Engagement / coordination calls
- Proposed threat-assessment working group to collaboratively address primary climate threats
- Crosswalk of NEAFWA-identified climate science needs and NE CSC-partner expertise, projects, and products
- Syntheses of NE CSC work related to each major climate threat
  - 1st completed - Coastal resiliency projects and products
- Incorporation of State science needs into NE CSC Science Agenda and funded projects
More information at [http://necsc.umass.edu/](http://necsc.umass.edu/)