

Alaska Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

The Alaska wildlife action plan highlights conservation needs common to large numbers of species and the habitats that support them. In addition, it provides specific action plans for 74 featured species and species groups ranging from little known cave insects to familiar species such as loons, owls, and whales.

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Conserving Black Oystercatchers with Many States and Countries**

The black oystercatcher is one of the rarest shorebirds in North America and is a featured species in the wildlife action plans of every state in which it occurs. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game spearheaded the creation of the collaborative International Black Oystercatcher Conservation Plan. Every state and federal agency in the U.S. and Canada with management jurisdiction over the species or its habitat is already using the plan as the basis for all conservation work throughout the species' entire range. International projects underway include a regional assessment of ecology and threats in the northern range, a southern

population size estimate, a population genetics investigation, and a satellite telemetry study to determine seasonal migration patterns and habitat use. This conservation work, coordinated between multiple states and countries, will help conserve the black oystercatcher before it becomes more rare and more costly to protect.

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People **Sustainably Managing Kachemak Bay Clams**

Obtaining better information in order to make smart management decisions is a priority in Alaska's wildlife action plan. Kachemak Bay is one of the most productive, diverse, and intensively used estuaries in Alaska. The hardshell clam fishery here is Alaska's largest and is important to many family traditions, but

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Black oystercatchers/Phil Mooney, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

the lack of sufficient information makes it difficult to ensure sustainable use.

Through research currently underway, Alaskan biologists have learned more about where and how clams grow. With this information, wildlife managers are better able to monitor the health of these populations and ensure good

conservation of Alaska's hardshell clam resource for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.



Growth rings on a clam/Carol Kerkvliet, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Gathering Information to Take Action Keeping Marbled Murrelets Common in Alaska

The marbled murrelet, once called the "enigma of the Pacific," is a seabird that nests in old-growth forests and is a featured species in Alaska's wildlife action plan due to its risk for population decline. The long-term fate of the marbled murrelet, listed as threatened elsewhere in its range, may hinge on how well it does in Alaska, where its old-growth

forest habitat is relatively intact and marine feeding areas are mostly pristine. To better understand the factors that are important to Alaskan populations, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is supporting research to identify preferred nesting habitats, timing of egg-laying and hatching, activity patterns, and feeding habits. This research will help Alaska make good, cost-effective management decisions regarding this unique bird and the habitat it needs for survival.

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Marbled murrelet with radio transmitter/Alaska Department of Fish and Game