**Request for Spatial Data on Species Locations for Regional Responsibility and Concern Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

Background:

At the November, 2011 NEAFWA Director's meeting, the Northeastern States requested that the North Atlantic LCC provide technical assistance to the States to update their State Wildlife Action Plans with regional information developed through Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) and LCC projects. In January 2012, the North Atlantic LCC Steering Committee approved a project called "Northeast Landscape Conservation Design", which was submitted by NALCC staff with the intention to deliver these high priority products by compiling spatial data and making it accessible to our partners.

At the April, 2012 NEAFWA conference, the Directors approved several RCN projects which were designed by the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee to complement the Northeast Landscape Conservation Design effort of the NALCC to compile spatial information for inclusion in the State Wildlife Action Plans including species and habitat information.

In 2010, the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee adopted a protocol to determine Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) of high regional responsibility and high concern. The resulting list of high regional responsibility, high concern SGCN has been assembled and will be reviewed by technical committee meeting in September.

Need and Request:

In order to support the SWAP updates through the regional synthesis of spatial data, we are requesting that the States provide species occurrence data for the high regional responsibility, high concern SGCN and other spatial data relevant to describing the extent and condition of habitat for these species (per SWAP required elements). This data includes but is not limited to Natural Heritage Data. Our intent is to regionally synthesize the best available occurrence and related data, recognizing that the quality of data varies widely across species and among agencies.

We will not re-distribute the data, and will not distribute products that indicate the location of sensitive resources. We will determine appropriate applications of the data in close collaboration with our State partners. Our staff will provide assistance to the States as needed to support the sharing and management of data.

In order to meet the deadline set by the states, we need data and analytical methods finalized by the NEAFWA conference April, 2013 so that final results can be used in SWAP updates. We will need to have information from each state no later than mid-October, 2012.