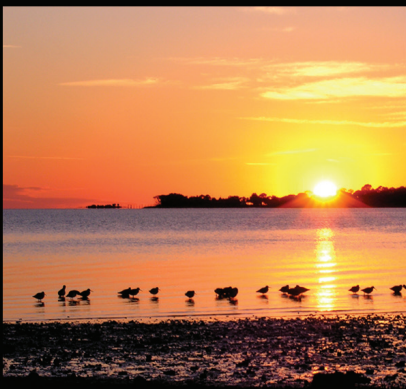


American Oystercatcher Focal Species Business Plan



Introduction

The American Oystercatcher is an iconic shorebird of the Atlantic coast whose declining populations are threatened by predation, coastal development, and human disturbance. Identified as one of the Service's Focal Species, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has identified the species as one of their Keystone Species. NFWF asked the Division of Migratory Birds to produce the first "Business Plan" that identifies the actual costs, actions, and partners that are required to bring this species back from the brink. This collaborative approach will produce significant amounts of funding to ensure implementation of the Business Plan for several years and increase the population substantially.

Conservation Challenges, Strategies, & Cost

Challenge A: Predation on Nesting Oystercatchers

Strategy: Trapping, Removal, and Exclusion

Cost: Tier 1: \$235,000; Tier 2: \$105,000

Challenge B: Disturbance from Human Recreation (Breeding and Wintering)

Strategy: Patrolling, Signage, Public Education

Cost: Tier 1: \$160,000; Tier 2: \$140,000

Challenge C: Coordinated Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Strategy: Monitoring, Assess Effectiveness of Actions

Cost: Tier 1: \$230,000; Tier 2: \$~150,000

Challenge D: Demographics and Limiting Factors

Strategy: Modeling, Breeding Success Studies

Cost: Tier 1: \$200,000; Tier 2: \$135,000

Challenge E: Habitat Management and Climate Change

Strategy: Coordinator Position, Modeling

Cost: Tier 1: \$80,000/year; Tier 2: \$15,000

All costs are per year.

Conservation Goal

Population Increase Goal *	Percent Increase	Years to Achieve Goal	Strategy	Cost per Year (in 1000's)	Estimate of Success** Match	
					Full	Partial
14,300	30%	15	All Tier 1 & 2 Projects	1,450	50%	15%
13,200	20%	10	All Tier 1 Projects	905	65%	20%
12,100	10%	10	Tier 1 of Challenge A, B, & C	625	80%	35%

*Current Population is 11,000 individuals.

**The primary variable in the estimate is the limited ability for some partners to find the necessary funding match. Therefore, some Tier 1 projects may not be submitted for funding consideration.

Return on Investment

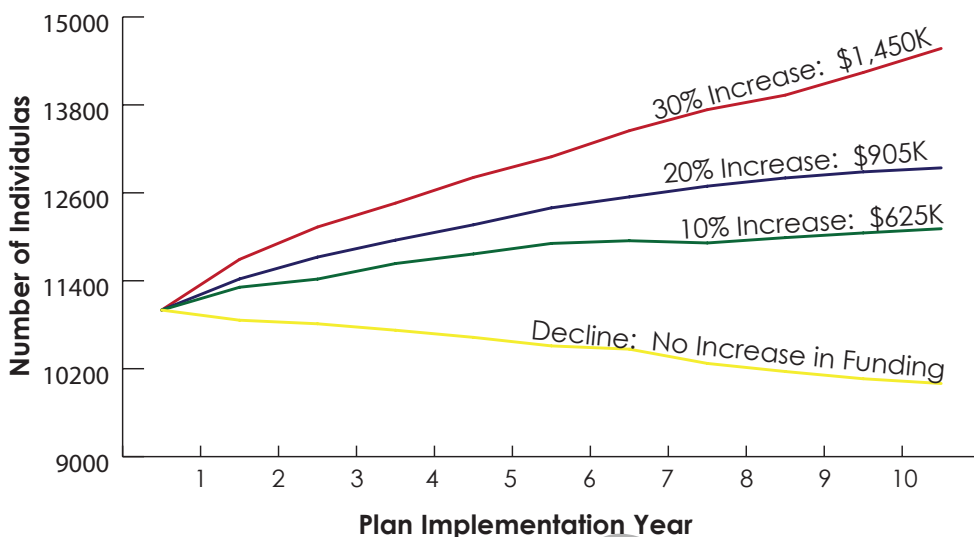
Oystercatchers are a flagship species

Oystercatchers serve as an effective flagship species for many other conservation needs because they use habitats favored by a number of species of high conservation concern.

Risks are low because of effective partnerships and a sound science base. The American Oystercatcher Working Group has already established an effective partnership including state governments, federal agencies, non-profits, and academic institutions, and is ready to implement the conservation activities proposed in this plan.

Plan implementation will reverse future declines, and increase population size. Implementation of the strategies in this plan will both halt the predicted gradual decline of American Oystercatcher populations, and also increase the number of adult birds to 14,300. The marginal return on investment will be 12,000 birds, or 10% of the current population.

Projected American Oystercatcher Population Size



Key Implementing Organizations

Audubon of Florida
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Cape Lookout National Seashore
Cape Romain National Wildlife
Refuge
Chincoteague National Wildlife
Refuge
City University of New York
Clemson University
College of Staten Island
College of William and Mary -
Center for Conservation Biology
Conserve Wildlife Foundation of
New Jersey
Delaware Division of Fish and
Wildlife
Doris and Pat Leary, Independent
Researchers and Photographers
Eastern Shore of Virginia National
Wildlife Refuge
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife
Refuge
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Commission
Georgia Department of Natural
Resources
Maryland Department of Natural
Resources
Manomet Center for
Conservation Sciences
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Monomoy National Wildlife
Refuge
New Jersey Division of Fish and
Wildlife
New Jersey Audubon Society
National Audubon
North Carolina Audubon
North Carolina Wildlife Resources
Commission
Rutgers, The State University of
New Jersey
South Carolina Department of
Natural Resources
The Nature Conservancy -
Virginia Coast Reserve
Trent University
University of Georgia
USGS Cooperative Fish and
Wildlife Research Unit, North
Carolina State University
Virginia Department of Game
and Inland Fisheries
St. Catherines Island Foundation

For more information contact:
Scott Johnston
USFWS, Division of Migratory Birds
413/253-8557
scott_johnston@fws.gov



April 2008