

2015 SWAP Update

Threat characteristics and categorical ratings used to assess threats to NJ's Focal Species:

Threat Characteristic	<i>Low Impact (1)</i>	<i>Moderate Impact (2)</i>	<i>High Impact (3)</i>
Severity	Slight Severity: Degree of ecological change is minor	Moderate Severity: Degree of ecological change is substantial	Severe: Degree of ecological change is major
Reversibility (Consider the likelihood of reversing the impacts within 10 years)	Reversible: Effects of the threat can be reversed by proven actions	Reversible with difficulty: Effects of the threat may be reversed but costs or logistics make action impractical	Irreversible: Effects of the threat are irreversible
Immediacy (This characteristic assesses the time scale over which impacts of the threat will be observable.)	Long-term: Effects of the threat are expected in 10-100 years given known ecosystem interactions or compounding threats	Near-term: Effects of the threat are expected within the next 1 - 10 years	Immediate: Effects of the threat are immediately observable (current or existing)
Spatial Extent (Consider impact of threat within 10 years)	Localized: (<10%) A small portion of the habitat or population is negatively impacted by the threat.	Dispersed or Patchy: (10-50%)	Pervasive: (>50%) A large portion of the habitat or population is negatively impacted by the threat.
Certainty	Low Certainty: threat is poorly understood, data are insufficient, or the response to threat is poorly understood	Moderate Certainty: some information describing the threat and ecological responses to it is available, but many questions remain	High Certainty: Sufficient information about the threat and ecological responses to it is available
Likelihood (Consider impact of the threat within 10 years) (This characteristic is used to assess the certainty surrounding the threat and its impacts.)	Unlikely: Effects of the threat are unlikely to occur (less than 30% chance)	Likely: Effects of threat are likely to occur (30-99% chance)	Occurring: Effects of the threat are already observable (100% chance)

Source: *The Northeast Lexicon: Terminology Conventions and Data Framework for State Wildlife Action Plans in the Northeast Region*