

# NL SPECIES AT RISK STEWARDSHIP & EDUCATION WORKSHOP 2009

## SPECIES AT RISK RECOVERY: ADDRESSING THE GAPS

The 2009 Newfoundland and Labrador Species at Risk Stewardship and Education Workshop was held on October 21st and 22nd at the Ramada hotel in St. John's, NL. 65 people attended the workshop representing 25 different environmental organizations/agencies.

Along with the numerous presentations on different NL species at risk

and afternoon workshop sessions, there was also a poster session at the end of day one. This session was intended for those who did not have the opportunity to present during the day to showcase their current species at risk initiatives.

It was a very interesting and informative two days and we hope to see you all at the next workshop.

### Goals:

To hold a Species at Risk Stewardship & Education Workshop that would serve as a forum for sharing current information on species at risk recovery and stewardship in the province as well as highlight the existing gaps in stewardship recovery initiatives.

To provide an opportunity for the individuals currently involved with species at risk in NL to meet and exchange ideas on how to address those gaps.



“ENJOYED “CITIZEN JOE’S” PRESENTATION AND LEARNED A LOT FROM HIM ABOUT THE PROVINCE’S EFFORTS.”



### Keynote Presentation:



“RECOVERY IS AS MUCH ABOUT PEOPLE AS IT IS ABOUT THE SPECIES”  
—JOE BRAZIL

A special thanks to Joe Brazil for being the 2009 workshop's keynote speaker. Joe's presentation entitled “The past, present, and possible future of species at risk recovery in Newfoundland and Labrador” gave the audience an overview of the

province's historical milestones in species at risk recovery, a look at the current situation, and a glimpse into what might be some future directions and challenges. The presentation was not only informative but also inspiring and set the tone for the rest of the workshop by motivating everyone to continue with and improve their recovery initiatives.

Joe retired this past fall after more than 30 years of work with the Wildlife Division. He spent the last part of his career in the Endangered Species and Biodiversity Section of the Division where he was instrumental in developing the province's *Endangered Species Act*, chairing our first recovery teams, ensuring recovery efforts were a priority for govern-

ment and industry, and providing a voice for the province's wildlife. His passion for wildlife and wild spaces will be missed. We wish him and his family many blessings in the years to come!

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately; To front only the essential facts of life;

And see if I could not learn what it had to teach;

And not when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

- Henry David Thoreau



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### *Day 1—The more ‘popular’ species at risk.*

Day 1 of the workshop focused on the more ‘popular’ species at risk (i.e., the species which have gotten a lot of attention in the past). During the 12 minute time-slots, presenters gave:

- 1) An introduction to the species
- 2) The major threats to the species
- 3) A brief outline of past and ongoing recovery efforts
- 4) A summary of the recovery priorities from the perspective of the recovery team and/or any existing recovery plan/strategy/action plan.

The afternoon workshop session consisted of small-group brainstorming and reporting on questions about the use of

recovery documents and interaction with recovery teams.

The goal of the day was to provide updates on ‘popular’ species at risk and present the main recovery priorities and then ask how we can focus and seek to most efficiently address these priorities.

Ideas from the afternoon session were:

- 1) Most people agreed that stewardship & education recovery proposals should closely follow the priorities in the recovery documents but need to be open to new ideas and able to adapt to emerging information and situations.

2) Everyone agreed that stewardship & education activities and priorities should and most often do get discussed or reviewed at recovery team meetings.

3) Recovery documents can be and are being used for a variety of different purposes from simply gaining knowledge of a particular species at risk to validating funding needs and helping develop educational programs.

4) Everyone supported the concept of increased communication regarding species at risk recovery and stewardship & education initiatives.



“LOTS OF NEW INFO, NEW IDEAS, INSPIRATION TO KEEP WORKING AND HEADING TOWARDS RECOVERY.”

### *Day 2—The ‘lesser known’ or newly listed species at risk*

Day 2 was dedicated to the ‘lesser known’ or more newly listed species at risk. During 7 minute time-slots, presenters focused on briefly introducing these species to the audience, outlining the threats to its survival, and indicating the major recovery priorities.

The afternoon workshop session consisted once again of small-group brainstorming and then reporting on questions about how we balance recovery efforts for

all the listed species and also questions about having a common message for species at risk in NL.

The goal of this day was to get people thinking about how the more newly listed species could be incorporated into existing projects in order to meet the recovery priorities.

Ideas arising from the afternoon session included:

- 1) Benefits of incorporating more species into our

already existing recovery teams, proposals and projects include: more funding opportunities, more political will, and fewer meetings/less volunteer time required.

2) Limitations of incorporating new species into our already existing recovery teams, proposals and projects include: risk of losing focus, problems prioritizing, and volunteer burn-out.

3) The value of having a common message among all species at risk initiatives was determined to be that it would increase political awareness (\$\$), it would provide consistency and a unified effort among initiatives, and hopefully an increase in stewards.



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### *Feedback from the Survey:*

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the feedback and evaluation survey. It is helpful for us to know what you think worked well with the workshop and also what you think didn't work so that we can improve the format and move forward with species at risk stewardship and education.

Feedback suggested that while the workshop was beneficial, the next one should be structured around a specific common outcome and that the timing of the next workshop should be in advance of the Habitat Stewardship Program application deadline.

Everyone believed that the focus of the workshop was

beneficial and would be interested in attending future workshops.

For the suggested location of the next workshop there was a tie between St. John's and Corner Brook.

“INCREDIBLY BENEFICIAL. IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAKE NEW AND MAINTAIN OLD COMMUNICATION LINES”

