

Here are a few initial thoughts on the draft objectives from a provincial perspective here in Ontario:

- We have some concern with a plan that would see a re-use of the old waterfowl population objectives from previous plans. In Ontario, several of our partners in the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture have expressed an interest in revisiting population objectives for some species to recognize changes in priorities, address gaps and incorporate new situations. For example, population objectives related to geese deserve more attention. We are also seeing more waterfowl over-winter in Ontario.
- Increasing human populations and climate change projections will have an impact on our landscape, and the habitat's carrying capacity for waterfowl – it may be beneficial to re-visit and re-align our population objectives to consider these increasing pressures in an effort to ensure that we are all working towards the best possible common result.
- The Plan seems to be proposing to continue to focus on previously identified important waterfowl areas. While these areas are still important and deserve continued attention, it might be worthwhile to examine other areas as well to assess their current or projected waterfowl production value and the threats that they will be facing.
- One of the traditional premises on which NAWMP's wetland habitat conservation actions have been based is that habitat conservation was needed because waterfowl populations that depend on that habitat were in decline. If waterfowl populations are now stable it becomes much more difficult to link our habitat conservation efforts to them. What will our new common "call to action" be?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please note that I will be forwarding this email and your deck to our Eastern Habitat Joint Venture partners to ensure that the JV has an opportunity to comment as well.

Eric