

Survival and recruitment of Common Eiders (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*) in the Gulf of Maine.

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Banding efforts for common eiders have not been constant over time. Survival and recovery rates are only available for adult females and there is a need for information on the other age-sex classes. During the 1970s to mid- 1980s there was an effort to band female eiders on a few islands in Maine. Numbers of adult females banded per year ranged from 120 to 609. Since then, 0-50 birds have been banded each year. Krementz et al. (1996) analyzed banding data for the Atlantic coast population of eiders and only had sufficient data for the years 1976-1986 for Maine. He found recovery rates were low and survival was high. Because these estimates are more than 15 years old, harvest has been increasing, and recruitment rate is likely declining, there is a need to obtain better estimates of survival and recovery rates for eiders.



638 Recapture
38 Foreign Retraps
230 Hunter Recoveries
10 Eagle Mortalities
10 Found Dead

Year	AHYM	AHYF	LM	LF	Total
2002	802	1277	52	66	2197
2003	1029	1377	28	41	2475
2004	409	822	5	5	1241
2005	404	930	1	2	1337
	2644	2206	86	114	7250

We selected islands and archipelagos and attempt to capture a majority of the nesting females on each. Birds are captured by hand nets. Birds are banded with standard USGS bands. Each year we return to the same islands and band unmarked birds and record bands of previously banded birds. In addition, we capture pre-fledged ducklings and molting adults of all age/sex classes using drive traps near islands.

This is a joint study with USGS, Maine DIFW, and USFWS and is a a long-term banding effort (5-10 years) to determine survival, recruitment, and recovery rates of common eiders in the Atlantic coast population, especially Maine. We will use traditional band analysis methodologies as well as mark - recapture methods.

Our total bandings for the past 4 seasons is 7,416 new birds banded, 638 returns of previously banded birds and 230 recoveries of dead birds.

