**Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Species and Habitat Priorities**

**Habitat\* Percentage of Time\*\***

**Coastal marsh habitat: 65%**

Species: Black Duck, Black Rail, Saltmarsh Sparrow

ACJV Engagement: Development of population objectives and habitat objectives; coordination of science and habitat delivery through partnerships

*Justification:* *ACJV flagship priorities determined by Management Board, May 2016. Habitat is one of the most imperiled in the flyway supporting many specialist species experiencing steep population declines.*

**Beach habitat: 10%**

Species: Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative (AFSI) priority species

ACJV Engagement: Participation in AFSI Habitat Working Group and Climate Change and Coastal Engineering subcommittees; AFSI communications work; goal to increase joint planning/fundraising/implementation efforts, especially where they overlap with coastal marsh goals (e.g. sediment management for multiple species groups).

*Justification: Strong nexus with coastal marsh habitat; shared habitat use by some species; possible shared funding opportunities and ability to leverage priorities in both systems to enhance competitiveness of grants;*

**Non-tidal emergent wetland habitat: 10%**

Species: Waterfowl/waterbirds/shorebirds

ACJV Engagement: Migration and energetic landscape modeling; Stepped down waterfowl population objectives; goal to improve integrated conservation of waterfowl with shorebirds and other waterbirds that rely on this habitat. (e.g. management of impoundments for multiple species groups).

*Justification: Achieving NAWMP goals is one of the original responsibilities of the ACJV. Wetland habitat (both coastal and interior) is the main focus of ACJV habitat delivery efforts through NAWCA and NCWC grant programs.*

**Forested wetland habitat: 5%**

Species: Prothonotary Warbler, Swallow-tailed kite

ACJV Engagement: minimal engagement on PROW geolocator project (Audubon lead) and participation in Swallow-tailed kite Regional Alliance team (assistance in developing kite conservation areas).

*Justification to continue: Identified as secondary priority of the ACJV by the Management Board. Provides breeding habitat for Black Ducks (NC and north) as well as wintering habitat in the Mid-Atlantic and south. Habitat is focus of much NAWCA work, which provides important connections to coastal marsh landscapes.*

**Longleaf pine habitat: 3%**

Species: Northern Bobwhite

ACJV Engagement: minimal engagement on Quail Council and America’s Longleaf Initiative (e.g. email discussions, occasional meetings)

*Justification to continue: minimal investment of time or energy yet maintains partnerships and connections that may be important in the future.*

**Successional habitat: 10% for 1yr, then 1% after that**

Species: Painted Bunting, Northern Bobwhite

ACJV Engagement: working on manuscripts and finalizing PABU report from past monitoring work. Then no additional work after that. Minimal engagement on Quail Council.

*Justification to continue: beyond participation in Quail Council, we will invest only minimal time or energy in this habitat to maintain partnerships and connections that may be important in the future.*

**Forest habitat: 1% for 1-2 yrs, then 0% after that**

Species: Wood Thrush

ACJV Engagement: Minimal participation on Wood Thrush habitat model working group with NALCC for at least 1 more year. Then no additional work after that; ongoing efforts largely covered by Populations branch.

*Justification to continue: Minimal investment of time or energy to complete existing commitments.*

**Marine birds: 5% for 1 yr, then 0% after that**

Species: Marine birds

Engagement: Marine bird surveys and crowdsourcing survey analyses

*Justification to continue: ACJV will transition out of marine bird work and the USFWS Populations branch will assume the lead. Transition will be gradual, beginning in winter 2016 with full transfer expected by summer 2017.*

**Summary** (represents future condition):

Flagship priorities: 65%

AFSI priorities: 10%

All other priorities: 20%

Administrative/Other: 5%

Total: 100%

\* *Species listed in each habitat refer only to those species where staff are directly involved in conservation efforts in some way.*

\*\*NAWCA/Coastal/GLRI grant work is included in the above percentages.

**Current staff time spent on NAWCA/Coastal/GLRI grants in relation to ACJV Habitat Priorities** (total of ~40% Assistant Coordinators’ time):

**Average staff time spent by habitat across flyway:**

Coastal Marsh - 53%

Forest - 35%

Forested wetlands - 24%

Non-tidal emergent wetland - 11%

Successional (maritime coastal scrub) - 5%

Beach - 5%

Longleaf pine - 3%

**Average staff time in North Atlantic:**

Coastal marsh - 35%

Forested wetlands -35%

Forest - 10%

Non-tidal emergent wetland - 10%

Successional - 5%

Beach - 5%

Longleaf - 5%

**Average staff time in South Atlantic:**

Coastal Marsh - 70%

Forest - 60%

Forested wetlands - 12%

Non-tidal emergent wetland - 12%

Successional habitat (maritime coastal scrub) - 5%

Beach - 5%

Longleaf pine - 2%