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Gorham

Good morning,

The Inclusion of a Threatened or Endangered species on either Marine ESA or MESA means more attention and better management effort from all relevant state agencies.

We know enough to list 30 species as Threatened or Endangered at the state level when the species is not at risk of extinction across its range. We cannot justify not listing a species at the state level when it is at risk of extinction across its national range.

From 1979 to 1996, Maine's definition of Endangered Species included a designation by the Secretary of the Interior.

Furthermore, In 1996 with LD 164, Maine took responsibility for listing endangered species away from the state and federal scientists and gave it to the legislature. Twenty-five years later it's time we gave it back!

There is no biological reason for Maine not to list a species that USFWS and NMFS have listed as Endangered or Threatened.

Maine is one of only ten states (and the only state in the northeast) that does not mandate or highly recommend state-level listing of federally-listed species.

There are currently 16 federally-listed threatened and endangered birds, mammals, reptiles and fish found in Maine. Of those, 10 are also listed at the state level. The 6 federally-listed species found in Maine that are not listed at the state level are the red knot, Canada lynx, blue whale, green turtle, Atlantic salmon, Atlantic sturgeon.

Species around the world are going extinct at an unprecedented rate. Factors include population growth, development, resource extraction (oil, water, timber, minerals, etc.), wireless radiation pollution, pesticide and other toxic chemical use, light pollution, over-harvest and exploitation, invasive species, decrease in hydrologic nutrient flows from damming, fragmentation of habitat and habitat loss in terrestrial, riverine and lacustrine systems, ocean noise pollution (ship traffic, military sonar, seismic exploration) and climate change.

Given the threats above, it would be unrealistic to think that the number of federally listed threatened and endangered species will not increase. Any species threatened or endangered at the federal level is in danger of extirpation and deserves state protection as well.

Please Vote Ought to Pass on LD 883 as Amended. Thank you.