

Sea Duck Joint Venture
Annual Project Summary for Endorsed Projects
FY 02 – (October 1, 2001 to Sept 30, 2002)

Project Title: No. 17: Satellite radio tracking of black scoters caught in the Restigouche River, New Brunswick, Canada

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Partners: USFWS and CWS

Project Description: Funding was obtained to instrument black scoters in the Restigouche River, New Brunswick, Canada with satellite transmitters. This river is an important staging area for northern migration of this species. Satellite tracking of black scoters instrumented during May has provided new information that will be beneficial towards delineating populations and establishing affinities among staging, breeding, and molting grounds. These data will assist in future population monitoring and management of populations.

Objectives: Determine route and destination of black scoters when they leave Restigouche River (or Baie des Chaleurs) in the late April and migrate to breeding areas (and subsequent molting areas).

Preliminary Results: In early May, 17 (3 surf and 14 black) scoters were caught using a night lighting technique. Eleven male and 2 female black scoters were instrumented with satellite transmitters. The movements of the black scoters showed that they left the Restigouche River, with a major stop on the St. Lawrence River. The black scoters appear to use the central parts of the boreal forest in Northern Quebec as breeding areas. Ten of the 11 male scoters eventually went to James Bay for the July molting period.

Project Status: The objective for male black scoters was accomplished, but we plan to instrument females in the coming year to examine the breeding areas more thoroughly. The one major obstacle has been capturing the ducks for instrumentation. A variety of techniques were tried and night-lighting was the only one successful with the appropriate weather conditions. Ducks are still being tracked as they begin southern migration and can be followed on the Atlantic Seaduck Project Website:
<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/resshow/perry/scoters/default.htm>

Project Funding Sources (US\$):

SDJV (USFWS) Contribution	Other U.S. federal contributions	U.S. non-federal contributions	Canadian federal contributions	Canadian non-federal contributions	Source of funding (agency or organization)
\$45,000					
	\$10,000				USGS (in kind)
			\$5,000		CWS (in kind)

Total Expenditures by Category (US\$):

ACTIVITY	BREEDING	MOLTING	MIGRATION	WINTERING	TOTAL
Banding					
Surveys					
Research			\$60,000		
Communication					
Coordination					