

DEVELOPING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION GOALS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH Public Listening Session #1 | July 17, 2024 | 12-2 PM







ZOOM WEBINAR LOGISTICS

- Welcome! This event is a Zoom Webinar.
- You will only be able to see panelists and unmute with permission. ightarrow

LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation available in 中文, Kreyòl Ayisyen, Português, Español, and Tiếng Việt.
- Click the "Interpretation" button
- Choose the language you would like to hear.
- To hear the interpreted language only, click "Mute Original Audio".

ASL/CART INTERPRETATION

- in the chat.

• ASL Interpreters will be

pinned beneath the speaker.

• To turn on CART, click the "Show Captions" button.

 To view CART captions in another screen, use the link

PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION AGENDA

12:00 PM | INTRODUCTION

- Overview Stacie Smith, Facilitator
- Welcome Dept. of Fish & Game Commissioner Tom O'Shea
- Presentation Jennifer Ryan, Dept. of Fish & Game Assistant Commissioner
- Ground Rules for Public Comment *Stacie Smith, Facilitator*

12:30 PM | PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Feedback – Attendees will have 2-3 mins each to speak if desired \bullet

2:00 PM | CLOSING





ABOUT THE DEPT. OF FISH & GAME

The Department of Fish & Game's mission is to conserve the Commonwealth's abundant marine and freshwater fisheries, wildlife, plants, and natural communities, as well as the habitats that support them, for the benefit and enjoyment of all people.

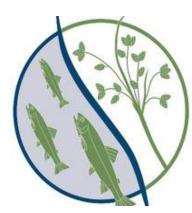
SUSTAIN FISHERIES

PROMOTE OUTDOOR RECREATION













Executive Order No. 618

A WHOLE-OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

In September 2023, Governor Healey made history by signing Executive Order No. 618, which directs the Department of Fish & Game to develop biodiversity conservation goals for 2030, 2040, and 2050.

BUILD ON & COMPLIMENT EXISTING STATE PLANS & EFFORTS: BioMap, State Wildlife Action Plan, Clean Energy & Climate Plan, Resilient Lands, Resilient Coasts, Resilient Mass, Farmland Action Plan, Healthy Soils Plan, Forests As Climate Solutions, Ocean Management Plan, EJ Strategy

Preserving biodiversity is a critical climate resilience strategy— Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer's Recommendations for a whole-ofgovernment approach to climate crisis call out **bold biodiversity** conservation goals as a key strategy for adaptation.

BIODIVERSITY IS A CLIMATE SOLUTION:

PHASE #1 DEVELOPING DRAFT GOALS & STRATEGIES FALL 2023 – WINTER 2024

PHASE #2 **ENGAGEMENT** & INPUT SPRING - SUMMER 2024

- Assessment & Research by Department of Fish & Game Working Group
- Developing Draft Framework, Goals, Strategies, Metrics

- Engagement with State Agencies
- Biodiversity Workshops and Ongoi Presentations to engage conservations partners, commercial interests, government, academics, and others
- Public listening sessions (July 17 and July 23) and written comment period through August 30, 2024 to gather ideas and feedback

PHASE #3 GOALS & STRATEGIES FALL 2024

i ng tion	•	Continued engagement & analysis, including outreach to Tribes and environmental justice groups
ſS	•	Report to Governor

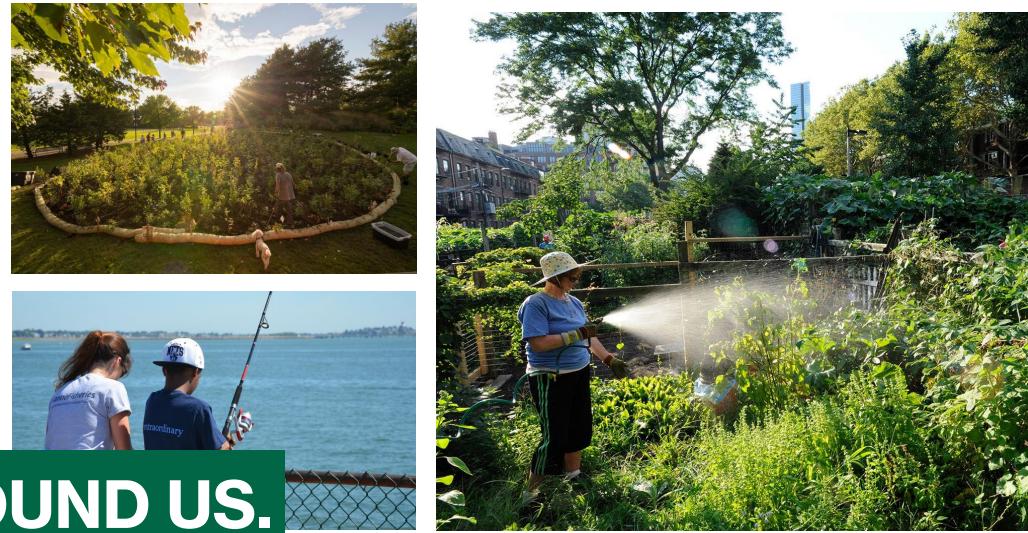
Release kicks off statewide
 "Biodiversity Initiative"
 and continued engagement



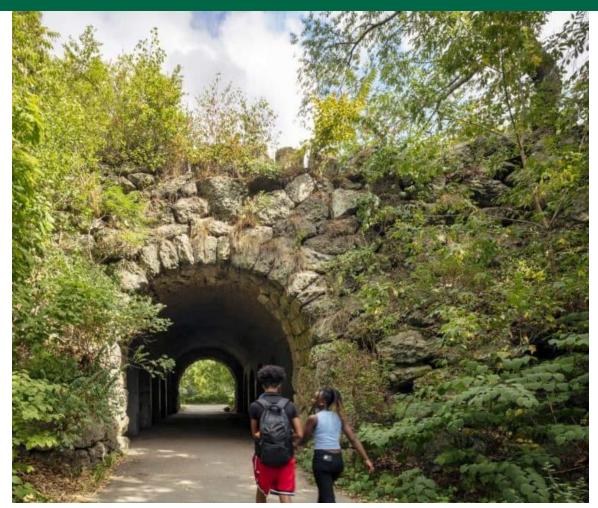
BIODIVERSITY - life on Earth

BIODIVERSITY – or biological diversity – is the extraordinary abundance and variety of living things: including plants, animals, other organisms, and their genetic diversity. Biodiversity is all the species, habitats, and complex interactions that have inherent value and are intertwined with history and culture, sustain our health and economy, and enrich our lives.





BIODIVERSITY IS ALL AROUND US.























BIODIVERSITY SUSTAINS US



HUMAN HEALTH

Healthy ecosystems create healthy communities—nature provides us with essential clean water, clean air, food, medicine, materials, and physical + mental well-being.





CLIMATE RESILIENCE

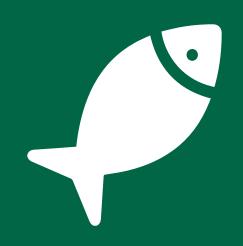
Nature is a climate solution—restoring forests, rivers, estuaries + wetlands is a cost-effective, impactful way to prepare cities + towns for climate hazards.





CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Restoring biodiversity hotspots wetlands, salt marshes, eelgrass will help MA harness the power of nature to reach net-zero.





OUTDOOR RECREATION & TOURISM

Biodiversity plays a vital role in Massachusetts' **economy + quality of life** special places make our state an attractive place to visit and live.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Protecting biodiversity will sustain Massachusetts' **nation-leading seafood industry** + commercial fisheries for future generations.

FOOD SECURITY

Biodiversity sustains our local food systems + economy ensuring viability of agriculture, hunting + fishing, wild harvest in a time of climate uncertainty.



THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY





POLLUTION OF LANDS & WATERS

Ecosystems are significantly degraded—legacy + presentday pollution threatens ecosystems and human health.

HABITAT LOSS

We are losing critical natural spaces — conversion of habitat and changes in hydrology threaten essential remaining habitats.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Stark disparities exist in access to nature and its many benefits, guiding investments and action to address this is key.

INVASIVE SPECIES

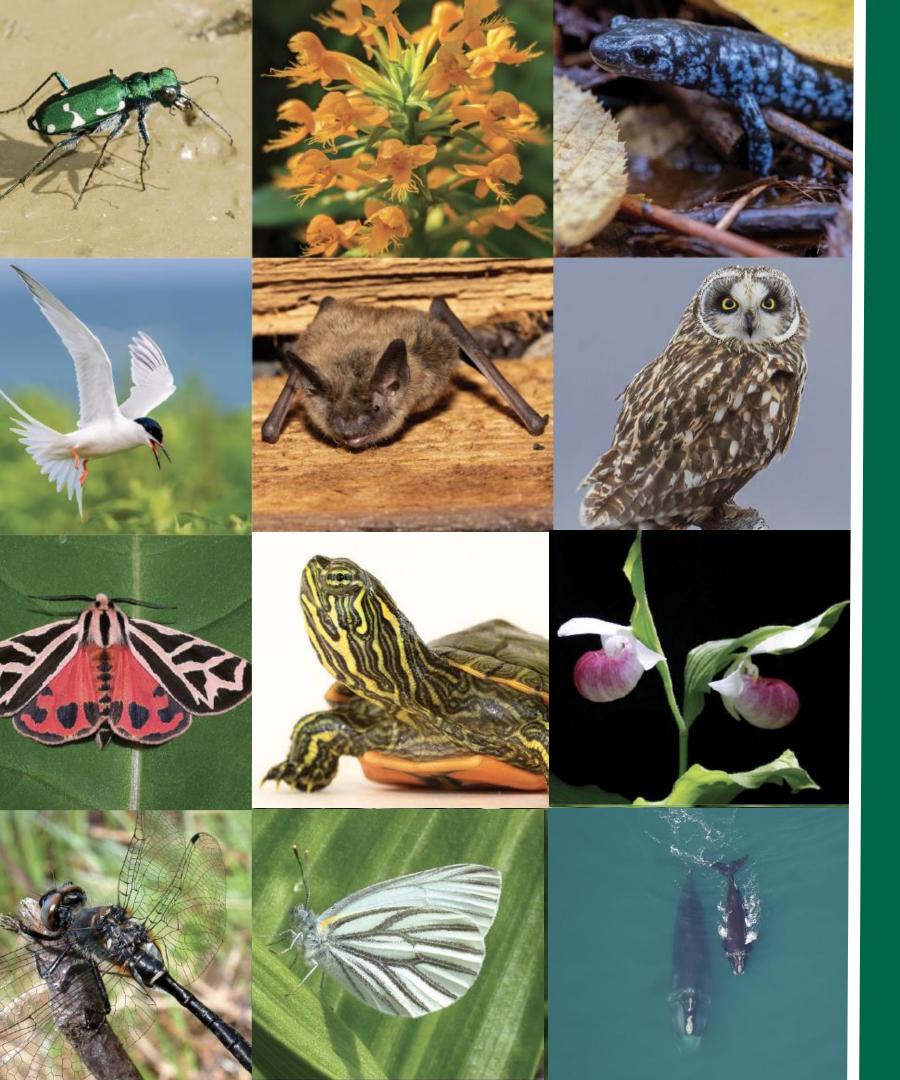
Fast-growing, non-native
terrestrial and aquatic plants, invasive
species outcompete native species
and overtake the ecosystem.

HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

Poorly placed infrastructure—defunct dams, undersized culverts, excessive pavement—**fragments habitats,** blocking wildlife migration + harming our state's ability to withstand climate impacts.

CLIMATE CRISIS

Climate change is amplifying threats— Without action, we will see loss of essential species + habitats that sustain us, threatening our public health, safety, food security, and economy.



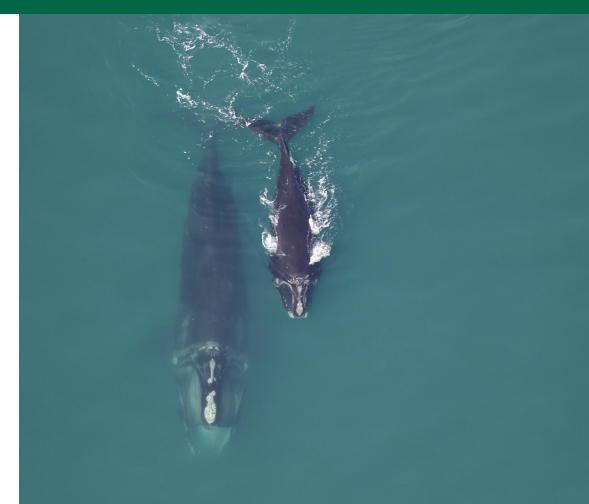
BIODIVERSITY IN CRISIS

- **Over 430 species are listed by the Massachusetts** ullet**Endangered Species Act:**
 - Of 512 bird species, **6% listed**
 - Of 83 mammal species, **17% listed**
 - Of 55 freshwater + diadromous fish species, 18% listed
 - Of 1,296 insect species found, 8% listed • Of 2263 native/naturalized plant species, **17% of native plants listed**
- The MA State Wildlife Action Plan names 540 \bullet **Species of Greatest Conservation Need:** • 287 animals • 283 plants • 24 habitat types

















CONSERVING AND RESTORING AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL







European Environment Agency

Topics Analysis and data Countries

POLICY DOCUMENT

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

The European Commission has adopted the new EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and an associated Action Plan (annex) - a comprehensive, ambitious, longterm plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems. It aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 with benefits for people, the climate and the planet. It aims to build our societies' resilience to future threats such as climate change impacts, forest fires, food insecurity or disease outbreaks, including by protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade. A core part of the European Green Deal , the Biodiversity Strategy will also support a green recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

WE ARE PART OF A **GLOBAL MOVEMENT**

- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 + Action Plan
- DOI America the Beautiful Initiative
- ightarrow



of the State for Nature

2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

COP15-CP/MOP10-NP/MOP Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earl KUNMING - MONTREA

Newsroom

F X 🖻



Vermont Sets Ambitious Goal to Save Half

New biodiversity measure aims to conserve 50 percent by

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

2050

By Lindsey Botts

August 10, 2023

California Biodiversity Initiative Roadmap & Pathways to 30x30 Strategy

Vermont Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act of 2023

VISION 2050 FOR BIODIVERSITY



PROTECT

KEY HABITATS, LANDSCAPES, SEASCAPES

RESTORE

HABITATS, SPECIES, CONNECTIVITY

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, FOOD SECURITY, ECONOMY

SUSTAIN

CONNECT

ALL PEOPLE WITH NATURE



PRIORITY CONSERVATION

FOR BIODIVERSITY

- Clean Energy + Climate Plan at least 40% by 2050
 - Meet Commonwealth 30x30 conservation goals
 - Guided by state wildlife + landscape planning tools
- Best management practices used to maximize species diversity
- Active management goals established for **forest biodiversity**

st 40% by 2050 nservation goals cape planning tools to maximize species diversity ned for **forest biodiversity**



MAKE ROOM TO MOVE

CLIMATE CORRIDORS FOR MIGRATION & RESILIENCE Targets prioritize landscape-scale + watershed-scale restoration to Knit together disconnected habitats **Restore fish passage** for all diadromous/cold water fisheries Support species in **climate migration** by providing refuges + mobility Facilitate salt marsh, beach, + flood plain migration as sea levels rise

- ullet
- \bullet
- \bullet
- •



protection and restoration of critical seascapes—eelgrass, complex hard bottom.

BLUE ECONOMY

HEALTHY OCEAN & COASTS FOR ALL

Protect and restore core coastal and marine habitats to boost ocean biodiversity, commercial fishing, and climate resilience. Restore eelgrass habitats; identify sensitive, special, unique habitats (SSUs)

- ightarrowidentified by MA Ocean Plan
- Protect + restore salt marshes to **maximize carbon sequestration** \bullet
- \bullet of Shellfish Growing Areas



Upgrade stormwater + wastewater treatment to ensure **No Net Loss**

EXAMPLE: BIODIVERSITY SUITABILITY TOOLS & SITING POLICY Guide sustainable development around **sensitive habitats + climate**vulnerable areas.

GREEN PLANNING AND DESIGN

FOR PEOPLE & NATURE

Elevate biodiversity as a priority—work towards our climate, clean energy, transportation, and housing goals and provide tools to: Avoid impacts to **important habitats + landscapes** Inform housing + transportation goals and projects Inform clean energy generation + carbon sequestration policy + actions Better manage our freshwater resources





FOOD SECURITY

SUSTAINABLE HARVEST

- Support farms in applying biodiversity-friendly practices for healthy soils, pollinator edges, agroforestry, intercropping
- Ensure No Net Loss of Farmland \bullet
- \bullet
- \bullet

Bolster food security by growing "Hunters Share the Harvest" + "Share the Catch" Management plans for marine fish & invertebrates that reflect climate change

EXAMPLE: BIODIVERSITY JOBS Develop pathways for future workforce for climate + biodiversity, including habitat management + outdoor education.

NATURE IN THE CLASSROOM

Support inherent appreciation for + belonging in nature from a young age:

- or summer programming.
- Programs and opportunities for people throughout their lives. \bullet



Launch the Nature in our Schools Initiative to educate all students on the nature of Massachusetts and biodiversity principles in the classroom, after-school,



NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

- Supporting municipal and community led initiatives
- initiatives)

Ensure every person has access to a **biodiverse greenspace** (pocket forest, urban garden, food forest, pollinator pathway) in walking distance of their home Biodiversity Toolkit for municipalities (e.g. native planting, land use, Dark Skies



STAY IN TOUCH!

The Department of Fish and Game is looking for **you** to bring us your vision for nature in 2050!

We have one additional public listening session:

Tuesday, July 23, 2024 from 6-8 PM | Register online

WRITTEN COMMENTS

If you would prefer to submit written comments, use the link posted in the chat or visit our website. Written comments are due August 31, 2024.

mass.gov/biodiversity



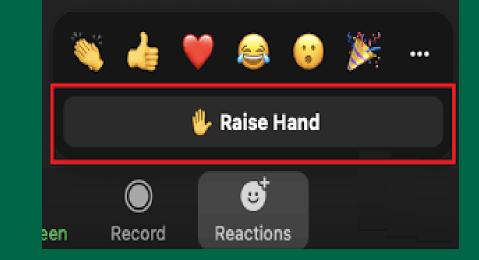


GROUND RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- Please use the "Raise Hand" button to sign up.
- When it's your turn, we will unmute you.
- Please state your name & affiliation (town, organization, business, etc.)
- Each person will get 3 minutes to comment.
- All perspectives welcome.
- Please focus on biodiversity.
- Specific ideas and suggestions most welcome.
- Please direct comments to the Department and refrain from commenting on comments.
- If you have questions, please put them in the chat.
- The session is being recorded and will be made available on the website.
- Thank you for participating!

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

If you would prefer to submit written comments, go to <u>mass.gov/biodiversity</u> or use the link posted in the chat! Written comments due August 30, 2024.



TO FIND THE "RAISE HAND" **BUTTON, CLICK REACTIONS IN THE TOOLBAR & RAISE HAND**



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION GOALS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

Please raise your hand to give verbal comments or submit written feedback via <u>mass.gov/biodiversity</u>.





