

## **Appendix F**

Avian and Bat Work Plan and Correspondence

**Draft Work Plan for Avian Preconstruction Studies at the Galloo Island Wind Farm –  
Town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County, NY.**

**May 14, 2015**

**Prepared for:**

Hudson Energy Development  
Executive Woods  
5 Palisades Drive  
Suite 300  
Albany, NY 12205

**Prepared by:**

Old Bird Inc.  
PO Box 45  
Ithaca, NY 14851

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of two elements:

- The construction and operation of ~31 wind turbine generators (WTGs) along with the installation and operation of associated collection lines (below grade and overhead) and related infrastructure including a docking facility, helipad, and operations and maintenance facilities on Galloo.
- The construction and operation of an underwater transmission line (~30 miles under Lake Ontario) and related facilities linking power generated on Galloo Island with the New York State power grid on the mainland.

The commencement of the project is subject to the Article 10 review processes. It is anticipated these processes will be completed by 2016.

## STUDY OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

Surveys providing baseline data on the bird species present, their abundance, and their in-flight characteristics are recommended by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for evaluation of potential mortality or disturbance from a wind energy project. The agency has provided guidance for such studies (NYDEC 2009). Galloo Island was the site for the previously proposed Hounsfield Wind Energy Project, and the bird and bat studies carried out for that project were among the most extensive for any wind project in North America. Those studies are available to serve the environmental impact assessment of the currently proposed wind project and are listed below:

Activity	Dates
Winter bird surveys focused on raptors	Late Nov 2007 – Mar 15 2008; (repeated 2008-2009; 2009-2010)
Radar study of nocturnal bird & bat movement	Apr 15-Jun 1; Aug 7 - Oct 7, 2008
Acoustic monitoring study (birds)	Apr 15-Jun 1; Aug 7 - Oct 7, 2008
Breeding bird survey	Late May-mid Aug, 2008, 2009
Diurnal bird movement study	Mar 15-Nov 15, 2008; May 24-Sep 20, 2009

Because avian surveys for the previously proposed wind project occurred 5-6 years prior to the current project, a meeting was carried out with NYDEC (March 26) to review the existing

studies and determine what additional study might be needed. The outcome of these discussions was that the status of the island's NY Threatened & Special Concern breeding species should be reassessed. To comprehensively and efficiently fulfill this need, it was decided that new breeding bird surveys of the island should be carried out. The question arose whether a special survey should be carried out before leaf-out to determine if Bald Eagles are now nesting on Galloo. NYDEC indicated that Galloo Island would be covered in the agency's spring 2015 nest surveys in the region, so no special Bald Eagle surveys were needed.

A second meeting with NYDEC to further discuss avian research needs was carried out on May 8. Representatives from United States Fish and Wildlife (FWS) and NY Department of Public Works (DPW) were also present for this meeting and provided preliminary feedback. The following indicates the preconstruction avian study plan that has evolved for the Galloo Island Wind Project in 2015.

## **TASKS & METHODS**

### **Task 1: Breeding Bird Survey**

Old Bird, Inc. will conduct a breeding bird survey of the island during spring and summer 2015 in a similar manner as it conducted the 2008 & 2009 surveys (Old Bird Inc. 2008, 2009). This would include point count surveys, transects of grassland regions, and audio playback surveys of wetlands. The field surveys would be carried out over three 2-day periods: in late May, mid-June, and late June or early July. During each visit, 10-minute point count surveys would be carried out at all 31 currently proposed wind turbine sites (see map below) between the hour before sunrise and three hours after sunrise. The major grassland regions at the northern and southern ends of the island would be fully surveyed for grassland birds via point counts and transects. In addition, audio playback would be used to evoke calls of secretive marshland bird species (rails, bitterns, moorhen) and crepuscular walking surveys would be carried out to document presence of the Whip-poor-will. Special attention would be given to documenting the New York State listed species, Upland Sandpiper and Northern Harrier, which have previously been documented on Galloo Island during the breeding season. If adult Northern Harriers are found on the island during the May/June surveys, an additional survey would be performed in mid-August to document whether nesting had occurred (by searching for juvenile harriers).

### Currently proposed WTG locations



### Breeding Bird Survey Schedule

Task #	Activity	Dates
1	Point counts at 31 proposed WTG sites	May 24-26; June 7-10; June 28-30
2	Grassland bird point counts and transects	May 24-26; June 7-10; June 28-30
3	Wetland playback surveys	May 24-26; June 7-10
4	Juv. Northern Harrier survey*	One day circa mid-August
5	Bird Study report	August

\*May be conducted if one or more adult harriers are present during the prior breeding bird surveys. Day selected for surveys would be targeted to have good weather.

**Task 2: Bird Study Report**

A report presenting and summarizing the data obtained for each survey described below would be produced within about one month after the study season. The report will include study methods, results, and discussion sections describing the results.

**LITERATURE CITED**

NYDEC. 2009. Guidelines for conducting bird and bat studies at commercial wind energy projects. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Albany, NY.

Old Bird Inc. 2008. Breeding Bird Study of Big Galloo Island. Report prepared for Upstate NY Power Co.

Old Bird Inc. 2009. Breeding Bird Study of Big Galloo Island. Report prepared for Upstate NY Power Co.

Interim Report

Bat Survey of the

Galloo Island Wind Project Site

Jefferson County, NY

prepared by:

Dr. D. Scott Reynolds  
North East Ecological Services  
P.O. Box 3596  
Concord, NH 03302



05 July, 2015

## Bat Survey of the Galloo Island Wind Project Site

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North East Ecological Services ('NEES') conducted an acoustic survey at the Galloo Island Wind Project Site from 16 June – 19 June, 2015 to document the presence of potential federally endangered species, specifically the northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Indiana myotis (*Myotis sodalis*). NEES utilized U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service protocols to sample for the bats and analyzed all data using federally approved identification software. In total, NEES sampled at 42 locations within the Project Site. We visually confirmed the presence of little brown myotis (*M. lucifugus*) at Galloo Island; this was the dominant species on the island during our survey in 2008. The automated species identification software found tentative evidence for both Indiana myotis and northern myotis at the Project Site, but most of this evidence was based on a single call sequence from multiple sampling sites. According to the previous iteration of the US Fish & Wildlife Service Guidelines (USFWS, 2013) and the developer of the EchoClass analysis software (Britzke, 2015), a single call sequences at a site is not allowed to determine presence of a species. Eliminating these sites (those based on a single call sequence), the current data suggests only three potential sites for further investigation, one of which is a known little brown myotis maternity site.

NEES recommends that Hudson Energy provide the US Fish & Wildlife Service with a copy of this report and re-establish informal consultation to determine the next step. Given the time constraints of this field season, I would recommend a conference call to determine whether additional work is necessary and to agree on a scope of work that will meet the needs of all parties.

### METHODOLOGY

North East Ecological Services ('NEES') utilized the 2015 Range-Wide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS, 2015); this is the recommended protocol for surveys of the northern long-eared bat as well as the Indiana bat. NEES used the Phase 2 Acoustic Survey guidelines that require a qualified surveyor to conduct sampling of the project area using ultrasonic microphones that detect and record the echolocation calls of foraging and commuting bats. NEES utilized Titley™ ultrasonic acoustic monitors (both Anabat II and Anabat SD1 units) with a detached microphone and self-contained power and data recording system. Each unit recorded acoustic activity from 18:00 – 08:00 nightly with the data stored on internal CF-Card memory cards. Each system was deployed in a weather-tight housing with the microphone set up at 1.5m above the ground and facing parallel to the ground. Recorded calls were collected from each recording system, filtered for noise, and analyzed for species and phonic-group identification using EchoClass 3.1 (Britzke, 2015) and BCID East 2.7c (Allen, 2015) as species identification tools. All equipment was calibration and deployed as outlined in the USFWS Guidelines (USFWS, 2015) and the total survey effort was maintained well above minimum requirements to increase confidence in the data conclusions.

**SURVEY RESULTS**

NEES collected on-site acoustic data from 16 June – 19 June, 2015. A total of 42 locations were sampled across the project area (Figure 1), for a total of 42 detector-nights of sampling effort. There was no evidence of eastern small-footed myotis (*M. leibii*) at any of the detector sites. There was evidence for each of the other myotine bat species, with most of this activity documented in the northeastern section of the island in habitat that was predominantly agricultural. Eight sites had potential northern myotis bat activity, although determination at five of these sites was based on a single call sequence. Fourteen sites had potential Indiana myotis bat activity, although determination at nine of these sites was based on a single call sequence. Of these twenty four combined sites, 18 had confirmed little brown myotis bat activity based on multiple sequences and an MLE < 0.001. Although myotine bat activity was detected at the multiple forested edge sites (A10, A15, A18), there was relatively little myotine bat activity at the interior forest sites (A23, A24, A37, A38), as well as the large snags (A12, A27) or shagbark hickory stands (A37, A43) except site A26 (the main forested road).

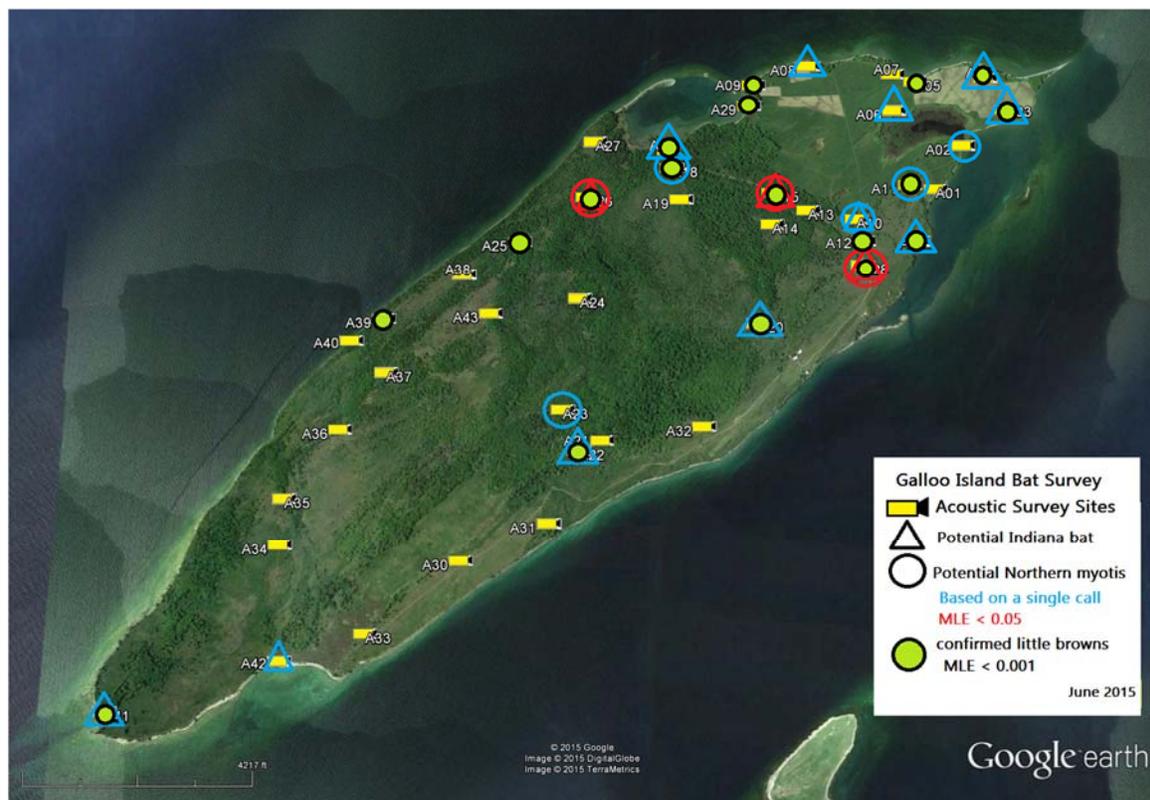


Figure 1. Summary of myotine bat activity at the Galloo Island site

I re-analyzed the ground-based acoustic monitoring data from 2008 using EchoClass v3.1 to compare the results of these two studies. The only potential detection of northern myotis from 2008 from two locations, roughly equivalent to sites A29 and A37 of the current survey; neither of these had any indication of northern myotis activity in 2015.

Five sites had potential detection of Indiana myotis in 2008 (roughly equivalent to A20, A23, A29, A34, and A37). Only one site had potential Indiana myotis activity in 2015 (Site A20). This site was sampled using five mist-nets in 2008 and 17 little brown myotis were captured over two nights.

**Table 1. Summary of Myotine bat activity across acoustic monitoring locations at Galloo Island**

SITE ID	<i>Potential Northern myotis</i>		<i>Potential Indiana myotis</i>		<i>Little Brown myotis</i>
	EchoClass	BCID	EchoClass	BCID	
A02	**				
A03			**		<b>0.001</b>
A04			**	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>
A05					<b>0.001</b>
A06			**		
A08				**	
A09					<b>0.001</b>
A10	**			**	<b>0.001</b>
A11	**	**			<b>0.001</b>
A12					<b>0.001</b>
A15	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>
A16			**		<b>0.001</b>
A17			**	**	<b>0.001</b>
A18	**				<b>0.001</b>
A20			**	**	<b>0.001</b>
A22			**	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>
A23	**				
A25					<b>0.001</b>
A26	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>		<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>
A28	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>
A29					<b>0.001</b>
A39					<b>0.001</b>
A41			**		<b>0.001</b>
A42				**	

\*\* - tentative identification based on a single call sequence

## DISCUSSION

The Galloo Island Project Site was extensively surveyed for bats in the summer of 2008, including both acoustic and mist-net capture efforts (Reynolds, 2009). The 2008 survey suggested a large little brown myotis community roosting and foraging across the island; a large maternity colony was visually confirmed roosting in a metal shed during this survey period. Although acoustic monitoring data collected in 2008 suggested the potential presence of three other myotine species (*M. leibii*, *M. septentrionalis*, and *M. sodalis*), mist-net captures only documented an abundance of little brown bats. I presumed these bats would have been extirpated from the island since 2008 because of the impact of White-Nose Syndrome on this population in the New York. However, I visually confirmed a small colony of bats in the same metal shed in June 2015 and acoustic monitoring adjacent to this shed confirmed that these were myotine bats, not big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*). Current acoustic monitoring data suggest a more diverse bat community now exists on the island, although I suspect that these conclusion is based on species misidentification by the automated software packages for three reasons. First, almost all the potential northern myotis and Indiana myotis sites were based on a single call sequence, which is not enough evidence to make a determination of presence. Second, almost every site with any indication of these two species had a much stronger indication ( $MLE < 0.001$ ) of little brown myotis. Third, the site was the strongest evidence for both endangered species (Site A28) was an acoustic monitoring station located immediately outside of a metal barn that had a confirmed little brown myotis maternity colony. Although these facts do not preclude the possibility that northern myotis or Indiana myotis are present on the island, they do question the value and likely success of additional monitoring for these species. If additional monitoring is required, I would suggest a limited focus on sites within the northeastern section of the island, as well as netting at both forested entrances to Buck Run Trail (near sites A22 and A23) and the shagbark hickory stand near Site A26.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Allen, C. R. 2015. Bat Call Identification, Inc. <<http://www.batcallid.com/Software.html>>
- Britzke, E.R., 2015. Instructions for using the EchoClass Acoustic ID Program, Version 3.1 <<[http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/downloads/2015/Echoclass\\_v3\\_Instructions.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/downloads/2015/Echoclass_v3_Instructions.pdf)>>
- Reynolds, D.S. 2009. Bat Risk Assessment and Pre-Construction Monitoring, Hounsfield Wind Farm Project. Report submitted to Babcock and Brown Renewable Holdings, Inc., February 2009.
- [USFWS] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2015. Revised Range-Wide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines. May 2015.  
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html>.



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## Proposal to Conduct a Bat Survey of the Galloo Island Wind Project Site

### **PREVIOUS RESEARCH**

North East Ecological Services ('NEES') conducted an acoustic survey at the Galloo Island Wind Project Site from 16 June – 19 June, 2015 to document the presence of potential federally endangered species at the Project Site (see Reynolds, 2015 attached). NEES utilized U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service protocol ('the Guidelines') to sample for the bats and analyzed all data using federally approved identification software. In total, NEES sampled at 42 locations within the Project Site. We visually confirmed the presence of little brown myotis (*M. lucifugus*) at Galloo Island; this was the dominant species on the island during our survey in 2008. The automated species identification software found tentative evidence for both Indiana myotis (*M. sodalis*) and northern myotis (*M. septentrionalis*) at the Project Site, but most of this evidence was based on a single call sequence from multiple sampling sites.

Qualitative review of all potential *Myotis* calls (either from EchoClass v3.1 or BCID v2.7c) revealed no strong evidence for Indiana myotis at any site (Table 1). Eight of the sites had call sequences that were ambiguous for either northern myotis (n=8) or Indiana myotis (n=1). The site with the potential Indiana myotis was a detector located immediately outside the known little brown myotis maternity site located in a metal shed, so the potential for Indiana myotis at this site is virtually nonexistent but the site could not be eliminated based on call characteristics alone. For most calls, the ambiguity with regard to northern myotis came from the presence of high maximum frequencies (some above 100 kHz) and high slopes (some over 200 ops), but qualitative analysis of the set of calls suggests many of these are likely high clutter calls of little brown bats (with the clutter causing a shift in the frequency range and slope of the calls). Call duration was not consistent enough to eliminate any of these calls as potential northern myotis.

### **PROPOSED MIST-NET SURVEY**

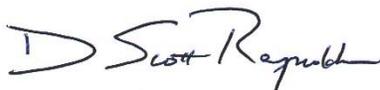
According to the developer of the EchoClass analysis software (Britzke, 2015) and the previous iteration of the US Fish & Wildlife Service Guidelines (USFWS, 2013), a single call sequence at a site is not adequate or allowed to determine presence of a species. This characterized twelve of the sites based on EchoClass and two additional sites based on BCID. Three of these sites could not be excluded from potential northern myotis activity (02, 10, and 18). Six other sites also had call sequences that could not be excluded from potential northern activity, one of which is the known little brown myotis maternity site. NEES proposes conducting a Phase 3 Mist-Net Survey in accordance with the Guidelines to capture bats at all the acoustic survey sites that met the discrimination criteria (multiple calls with a MLE < 0.05) for either northern myotis or Indiana

myotis. In addition, NEES will sample at all six sites that had a tentative identification for northern myotis based on a single call sequence. In the event that NEES captures either a northern myotis or an Indiana myotis, the bat will be radio-tagged followed approved protocols and attempts will be made to document the roost trees used by these bats throughout the mist-net survey period.

**Table 1. Potential Myotis calls detected at the Galloo Island Wind Project Site**  
(sites in red met the discrimination criteria of  $MLE < 0.05$  for their respective software programs)

Site ID	Myotis calls (Echo Class)	Myotis calls (BCID)	Qualitative analysis			
			<i>M. sept.</i>	<i>M. sodalis</i>	other	notes
Galloo 02	1	0	1	0	<i>Myotis spp.</i>	<i>Short sequence</i>
Galloo 03	0	7	1	0	MYLU	$F_c = 38, F_{max} = 64$
Galloo 04	2	10	2	0	MYLU	$F_c = 38-40, \text{ low slope}$
Galloo 05	1	3	0	0	MYLU/LABO	
Galloo 06	1	0	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 08	0	1	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 09	1	3	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 10	1	3	1	0	MYLU	one feeding buzz
Galloo 11	2	3	1	0	MYLU	One possible MYSE
Galloo 12	1	4	0	0	MYLU	
<b>Galloo 15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>MYLU/LABO</b>	
Galloo 16	3	8	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 17	1	3	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 18	1	4	1	0	MYLU	
Galloo 20	2	2	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 22	1	4	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 23	1	0	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 25	1	3	0	0	MYLU	
<b>Galloo 26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>MYLU</b>	
<b>Galloo 28</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>??</b>	<b>??</b>	<b>MYLU</b>	<b>Some calls that are ambiguous to both MYSE and MYSO</b>
Galloo 29	0	3	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 39	0	1	0	0	MYLU	
Galloo 41	1	7	0	0	MYLU	

NEES would conduct the mist-net survey in accordance with the White-Nose Syndrome Decontamination Protocol to minimize the risk of propagation of this disease, and any additional protocols or requirements requested of the USFWS or the New York Department of Conservation (NYDEC).



30 June, 2015



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

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## Eagle nest flights at Galloo Island

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Gary, Brianna M (DEC) <brianna.gary@dec.ny.gov>

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 8:43 AM

To: Bill Evans <wrevans@clarityconnect.com>, "nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com"

<nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>, "wmoore@hudsonenergydev.com" <wmoore@hudsonenergydev.com>

Cc: "Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)" <stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov>

Good Morning,

Thank you all for coming in yesterday. I contacted Blanche Town in region 6 to see what she knew about eagles nesting on Galloo. There are currently no known nests on the island, and she is scheduled to do a flight in the area on April 15, which will include coverage of the island. Therefore, we do not need anyone on your end to conduct a flight this year.

I'm sure we'll all be in touch soon as the field season progresses.

Thanks again!

Brianna



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

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## Re: Eagle nest flights at Galloo Island

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Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 9:09 AM

To: "Gary, Brianna M (DEC)" <brianna.gary@dec.ny.gov>

Hi Brianna,

Thanks for the response on this and thank you and Steve for your time yesterday. We will get the habitat and nesting survey scoped and to you for your review shortly.

Best regards,

Neil

On Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 8:43 AM, Gary, Brianna M (DEC) <[brianna.gary@dec.ny.gov](mailto:brianna.gary@dec.ny.gov)> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thank you all for coming in yesterday. I contacted Blanche Town in region 6 to see what she knew about eagles nesting on Galloo. There are currently no known nests on the island, and she is scheduled to do a flight in the area on April 15, which will include coverage of the island. Therefore, we do not need anyone on your end to conduct a flight this year.

I'm sure we'll all be in touch soon as the field season progresses.

Thanks again!

Brianna

—

Neil Habig  
Hudson Energy Development  
[nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com](mailto:nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com)  
V: 609.933.4293



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

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## RE: meeting agenda

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**Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)** <stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov> Tue, May 5, 2015 at 4:00 PM  
To: Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>, "Davis, Andrew (DPS)" <Andrew.Davis@dps.ny.gov>, Tim Sullivan <tim\_r\_sullivan@fws.gov>  
Cc: "Gary, Brianna M (DEC)" <brianna.gary@dec.ny.gov>, "Weintraub, Lawrence H (DEC)" <lawrence.weintraub@dec.ny.gov>, "Munk, Fred (DEC)" <fred.munk@dec.ny.gov>, "Farquhar, James (DEC)" <james.farquhar@dec.ny.gov>, "Mazzocchi, Irene (DEC)" <irene.mazzocchi@dec.ny.gov>, "Ross, Angelena M (DEC)" <angelena.ross@dec.ny.gov>, "Town, Blanche E (DEC)" <blanche.town@dec.ny.gov>

Neil, please see changes in the draft agenda. Note that the meeting is in Herkimer, not Utica. If there are any other recommendations from staff, I will send those to you.

ST

**From:** Neil Habig [mailto:nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2015 9:02 AM  
**To:** Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC); Davis, Andrew (DPS); Tim Sullivan  
**Subject:** meeting agenda

Steve, Andy, Tim,

Attached is what we had in mind for Friday's meeting. We are certainly open for additional discussion as you see fit.

Best regards,

Neil

—

Neil Habig

Hudson Energy Development

[nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com](mailto:nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com)

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2015-0508 draft Agenda.DEC.1docx.docx

15K

10/5/2015

Hudson Energy Development Mail - RE: meeting agenda

Galloo Island Wind Farm

Agenda

Herkimer Office  
NYSDEC  
225 North Main St.  
Herkimer, NY 13350  
Utica, NY

May 8, 2015

10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Call – in number: 866-394-2346

Conference Code: 368 953 09 51

Attendees:

- 1) NYDEC
- 2) NYDPS
- 3) USFWS
- 4) Hudson Energy Development
- 5) Old Bird
- 6) Scott Reynolds

Topics of Discussion

- 1) Overview of proposed project facilities
- 2) Avian – Previous work and proposed additional study
- 3) Bats – Previous work and proposed additional study
- 3)4) Invasive Species
- 4)5) Other



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

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## Galloo avian preconstruction work plan

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Old Bird <admin@oldbird.org>

Thu, May 14, 2015 at 3:49 PM

To: "Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)" <stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov>, "Gary, Brianna M (DEC)" <brianna.gary@dec.ny.gov>, "Davis, Andrew (DPS)" <Andrew.Davis@dps.ny.gov>, "Farquhar, James (DEC)" <james.farquhar@dec.ny.gov>, "Mazzocchi, Irene (DEC)" <irene.mazzocchi@dec.ny.gov>, "Munk, Fred (DEC)" <fred.munk@dec.ny.gov>, Tim Sullivan <Tim\_R\_Sullivan@fws.gov>  
Cc: Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Hi all,

Attached for your consideration is a draft avian work plan for preconstruction studies on Galloo.

Please send me your comments and cc Neil.

Note that our first proposed field work begins on May 24th, so comments before then would be helpful.

Thank you,

Bill

Bill Evans  
Old Bird Inc  
(607) 227-4804  
[admin@oldbird.org](mailto:admin@oldbird.org)



**Galloo Avian Preconstruction Work Plan - Draft 14May.doc**

178K



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

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## Re: Galloo Island Wind Farm - meeting attendance

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Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Fri, May 15, 2015 at 9:17 AM

To: "Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)" <stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov>

Cc: "wmoore@hudsonenergydev.com" <wmoore@hudsonenergydev.com>, "neesbats@comcast.net" <neesbats@comcast.net>, Bill Evans <wrevans@clarityconnect.com>, "Gary, Brianna M (DEC)" <brianna.gary@dec.ny.gov>, "Davis, Andrew (DPS)" <Andrew.Davis@dps.ny.gov>, "Farquhar, James (DEC)" <james.farquhar@dec.ny.gov>, "Mazzocchi, Irene (DEC)" <irene.mazzocchi@dec.ny.gov>, "Munk, Fred (DEC)" <fred.munk@dec.ny.gov>, Tim Sullivan <Tim\_R\_Sullivan@fws.gov>

Hi Steve,

Thanks for sign in sheet and again for facilitating the meeting.

From my notes I had the following points of action:

- 1) Bill Evens to draft scope for supplemental avian study consistent with discussion and submit to agencies for review [complete].
- 2) Scott Reynolds to draft scope for supplemental bat study consistent with discussion and pending feedback from Tim Sullivan after Tim has an opportunity to discuss with his colleague at FWS.[pending]
- 3) Neil Habig to provide mapping of turbines and related infrastructure. [pending refinement of road alignment and ancillary infrastructure.]

If anyone has any additions or clarification please advise.

Thanks,

Neil

On Tue, May 12, 2015 at 4:31 PM, Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC) <stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov> wrote:

Please find attached the sign-in sheet for last Friday's meeting/conference call. Thanks to all for participating.

Stephen Tomasik  
Project Manager  
Major Projects Management Section  
Division of Environmental Permits  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
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—

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V: 609.933.4293





Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

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## RE: Galloo avian preconstruction work plan

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Gary, Brianna M (DEC) <brianna.gary@dec.ny.gov>

Wed, May 20, 2015 at 7:59 AM

To: Old Bird <admin@oldbird.org>, "Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)" <stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov>, Tim Sullivan <Tim\_R\_Sullivan@fws.gov>

Cc: Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Hi Bill,

Attached is the work plan with a few editorial changes, nothing major.

Thank you!

Brianna

-----Original Message-----

From: Old Bird [mailto:[admin@oldbird.org](mailto:admin@oldbird.org)]

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2015 3:49 PM

To: Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC); Gary, Brianna M (DEC); Davis, Andrew (DPS); Farquhar, James (DEC); Mazzocchi, Irene (DEC); Munk, Fred (DEC); Tim Sullivan

Cc: Neil Habig

Subject: Galloo avian preconstruction work plan

Hi all,

Attached for your consideration is a draft avian work plan for preconstruction studies on Galloo.

Please send me your comments and cc Neil.

Note that our first proposed field work begins on May 24th, so comments before then would be helpful.

Thank you,

Bill

Bill Evans

Old Bird Inc

(607) 227-4804

[admin@oldbird.org](mailto:admin@oldbird.org)



**Galloo Avian Preconstruction Work Plan - Draft 14May\_DEC edits.doc**

181K



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

---

## Re: Galloo avian preconstruction work plan

---

Old Bird <admin@oldbird.org>

Tue, May 26, 2015 at 11:10 AM

To: "Davis, Andrew (DPS)" <Andrew.Davis@dps.ny.gov>, "Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)" <stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov>, "Gary, Brianna M (DEC)" <brianna.gary@dec.ny.gov>, "Farquhar, James (DEC)" <james.farquhar@dec.ny.gov>, "Mazzocchi, Irene (DEC)" <irene.mazzocchi@dec.ny.gov>, "Munk, Fred (DEC)" <fred.munk@dec.ny.gov>, Tim Sullivan <Tim\_R\_Sullivan@fws.gov>  
Cc: Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Hi all,

Attached is the revised draft of the Galloo Is. wind project preconstruction avian work, which integrates comments received so far (thank you).

The plan now includes a survey of diurnal movement of Little Gallo Is. nesters across Galloo Is. (similar to what was carried out in 2008/2009), and also a new avian risk assessment.

I've just completed the first round of field work on Galloo. The swallowwort has advanced noticeably since my last visit here in 2009. I'll wait until after my next visit in mid-June before making a formal assessment regarding changes to the Upland Sandpiper habitat at the southern end. The current year's growth is still largely only in the 4-12 inch high range and the tops of the plants across a large portion of the island took a hit from the frost here 3-4 nights ago.

Bill

Bill Evans  
Old Bird Inc.  
PO Box 45  
Ithaca, NY 14851  
[\(607\) 227-4804](tel:6072274804)



**Galloo Avian Preconstruction Work Plan - Draft 22May.doc**  
355K



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

---

## Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

---

Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Tue, Jul 7, 2015 at 10:44 AM

To: Tim Sullivan <tim\_r\_sullivan@fws.gov>

Cc: Scott Reynolds <neesbats@comcast.net>, "Davis, Andrew (DPS)" <andrew.davis@dps.ny.gov>, "Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)" <stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov>, William Moore <wmoore@hudsonenergydev.com>

Hi Tim,

Please find attached Scott's interim report on his acoustic study findings. After you have had a chance to review we would like to set up a call as soon as possible to discuss any next steps. If you could some possible times for such a call we can arrange.

Best regards,

Neil Habig

—

Neil Habig  
Hudson Energy Development  
[nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com](mailto:nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com)  
V: 609.933.4293



**NEES Galloo Bat Summary 07 05 15 - Interim Report.pdf**  
548K



Neil Habig &lt;nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com&gt;

---

**RE: Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey**

---

Tim Sullivan &lt;tim\_r\_sullivan@fws.gov&gt;

Thu, Jul 16, 2015 at 3:54 PM

To: Neil Habig &lt;nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com&gt;

Cc: Scott Reynolds &lt;neesbats@comcast.net&gt;, "Davis, Andrew (DPS)" &lt;andrew.davis@dps.ny.gov&gt;, "Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)" &lt;stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov&gt;, William Moore &lt;wmoore@hudsonenergydev.com&gt;, Carl Herzog &lt;carl.herzog@dec.ny.gov&gt;, robyn\_niver &lt;robyn\_niver@fws.gov&gt;

Hello All,

I'm following up on the survey results. The report does not mention visual inspection of the calls and since some are very similar to Indiana and Northern long-eared bats we think that would be a prudent next step. After that is completed we can arrange a call to discuss.

Thanks

Tim

Tim Sullivan

US Fish and Wildlife Service

3817 Luker Road

Cortland, NY 13045

(607)753-9334

**From:** Neil Habig [mailto:nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, July 07, 2015 10:45 AM**To:** Tim Sullivan**Cc:** Scott Reynolds; Davis, Andrew (DPS); Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC); William Moore**Subject:** Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

Hi Tim,

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10/5/2015

Hudson Energy Development Mail - RE: Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

Best regards,

Neil Habig

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Neil Habig

Hudson Energy Development

[nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com](mailto:nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com)

V: [609.933.4293](tel:609.933.4293)



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

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## RE: Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

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Scott Reynolds <neesbats@comcast.net>

Wed, Jul 22, 2015 at 7:25 PM

To: Tim Sullivan <tim\_r\_sullivan@fws.gov>, Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Tim,

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Scott

D. Scott Reynolds, Ph.D.

### North East Ecological Services

P.O. Box 3596

Concord, NH 03302

(603) 545-7012

[sreynolds@neesbats.org](mailto:sreynolds@neesbats.org)

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**Subject:** RE: Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

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Best regards,

Neil Habig

—

Neil Habig

Hudson Energy Development

[nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com](mailto:nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com)

10/5/2015

Hudson Energy Development Mail - RE: Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

V: [609.933.4293](tel:609.933.4293)



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

---

## Proposed Bat Netting at Galloo Island

---

**Scott Reynolds** <neesbats@comcast.net>  
To: "Niver, Robyn" <robyn\_niver@fws.gov>  
Cc: Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Thu, Jul 30, 2015 at 1:15 PM

Robyn,

I did not contact Noelle because I didn't hear back from anyone that it was okay. Here is what I am proposing to do at Galloo – we would start on 10 August with your approval. If I can offer any more information or answer any questions, let me know and I will call you. I can also provide you with the information we gave Tim and/or the results of the 2008 acoustic and mist-netting results.

Cheers,

Scott

D. Scott Reynolds, Ph.D.

### North East Ecological Services

P.O. Box 3596

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[sreynolds@neesbats.org](mailto:sreynolds@neesbats.org)

[www.neesbats.org](http://www.neesbats.org)

**From:** Niver, Robyn [mailto:[robyn\\_niver@fws.gov](mailto:robyn_niver@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2015 8:11 AM  
**To:** Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)>  
**Subject:** Re: Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

Yes! Did that work out?

On Thu, Jul 23, 2015 at 4:21 PM, Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)> wrote:

Robyn,

In your absence, is it okay for me to contact Noelle to get a Scope of Work approved?

Cheers,

Scott

**From:** Niver, Robyn [mailto:[robyn\\_niver@fws.gov](mailto:robyn_niver@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2015 2:20 PM  
**To:** Tim Sullivan <[tim\\_r\\_sullivan@fws.gov](mailto:tim_r_sullivan@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)>; Noelle Rayman <[Noelle\\_Rayman@fws.gov](mailto:Noelle_Rayman@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

Agreed. Noelle is my back up on bat-related issues while I am out for a few days.

On Thu, Jul 23, 2015 at 2:13 PM, Tim Sullivan <[tim\\_r\\_sullivan@fws.gov](mailto:tim_r_sullivan@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hi Scott,

Thank you for reviewing the files. Both Robyn and Carl Herzog thought it would be prudent to do so. Unfortunately I do not have time to discuss this today. Further, I will be out of the office starting tomorrow and won't be back in until August 10. Possibly Robyn can help you with this at some point. She is busy today and may be out for the next few days as well. Sorry for all the bad news.

A back up plan could be to talk with Carl and set up something. He and Robyn are usually on the same page when it comes to surveys.

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Tim Sullivan

US Fish and Wildlife Service

3817 Luker Road

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(607)753-9334

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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2015 7:26 PM  
**To:** 'Tim Sullivan'; 'Neil Habig'  
**Subject:** RE: Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

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**Subject:** RE: Interim Bat Results from Galloo Island Survey

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Best regards,

Neil Habig

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Neil Habig

Hudson Energy Development

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--

\*\*\*\*\*

Robyn A. Niver

Endangered Species Biologist

Acting Deputy Field Supervisor

USFWS

New York Field Office

Cortland, NY 13045

[607-299-0620](tel:607-299-0620)

*"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." - Abraham Lincoln*

--

\*\*\*\*\*

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Cortland, NY 13045

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*"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." - Abraham Lincoln*



**Galoo Netting Proposal.docx**

62K



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

---

## FW: Proposed Bat Netting at Galloo Island

---

Scott Reynolds <neesbats@comcast.net>  
To: Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Thu, Jul 30, 2015 at 2:56 PM

Neil,

I heard back from USFWS – this is probably as close to an agreement as we are going to get. I do not have the NYSDEC contacts that you have been using thus far, but if you tell me who to contact, I will try to get a similar ‘looks good’ from them. My contact (Carl Herzog) is the bat guy, but I am not sure if he is the one reviewing proposals.

Cheers,

Scott

**From:** Niver, Robyn [mailto:[robyn\\_niver@fws.gov](mailto:robyn_niver@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2015 2:25 PM  
**To:** Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)>  
**Cc:** Tim R Sullivan <[Tim\\_R\\_Sullivan@fws.gov](mailto:Tim_R_Sullivan@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Bat Netting at Galloo Island

Thanks, Scott. I would say that your client is proposing to use all of the best available information for the project site and that while the netting is a Phase 3 (and not a Phase 2) LOE, that your client will make a risk assessment as to whether they feel there is a risk of take of either species of bat.

Robyn

On Thu, Jul 30, 2015 at 2:17 PM, Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)> wrote:

My thoughts are that they do not occur on the island – we netted the island extensively in 2008 and did not catch either species – acoustic analysis of those data using the current versions of EchoClass and BCID suggest MYSE/MYSO were there at the same sites we captured little browns. I am very confident that the MYSO are mis-IDs (both 2008 and 2015) and given the inability to capture MYSE in 2008 pre-WNS, I do not think that they are likely to be present now.

I am trying to work with the developer to see what level of communication has been going on with NYSDEC to this point – I met with them to give them the SOW for the acoustics, so they know what we are up to. Based on those conversations, they appear to be deferring much of this to you guys and focusing on birds and vegetation. I am confident that if you are okay with the protocol, they will be all set, but I will cross that bridge once you are comfortable with the protocol. But I am being brought into this really late in the game so I am not sure what information has been passed between groups at this point.

Thanks,

Scott

**From:** Niver, Robyn [mailto:[robyn\\_niver@fws.gov](mailto:robyn_niver@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2015 2:04 PM  
**To:** Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)>  
**Cc:** Tim R Sullivan <[Tim\\_R\\_Sullivan@fws.gov](mailto:Tim_R_Sullivan@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Proposed Bat Netting at Galloo Island

OK. One more question - what are thoughts if no MYSE/MYSO are captured? And... this should be run by NYSDEC.

Robyn

On Thu, Jul 30, 2015 at 2:01 PM, Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)> wrote:

My bad – I would sample the eight sites for one net-night each (a combined 8 net-nights of total effort).

Scott

**From:** Niver, Robyn [mailto:[robyn\\_niver@fws.gov](mailto:robyn_niver@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2015 2:00 PM  
**To:** Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)>  
**Cc:** Neil Habig <[nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com](mailto:nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com)>; Tim R Sullivan <[Tim\\_R\\_Sullivan@fws.gov](mailto:Tim_R_Sullivan@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Bat Netting at Galloo Island

Hi Scott,

What LOE are you proposing for netting?

Thanks!

Robyn

On Thu, Jul 30, 2015 at 1:15 PM, Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)> wrote:

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**Cc:** Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)>; Davis, Andrew (DPS) <[andrew.davis@dps.ny.gov](mailto:andrew.davis@dps.ny.gov)>; Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC) <[stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov](mailto:stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov)>; William Moore <[wmoore@hudsonenergydev.com](mailto:wmoore@hudsonenergydev.com)>; Carl Herzog <[carl.herzog@dec.ny.gov](mailto:carl.herzog@dec.ny.gov)>; robyn\_niver <[robyn\\_niver@fws.gov](mailto:robyn_niver@fws.gov)>  
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Best regards,

Neil Habig

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Neil Habig

Hudson Energy Development

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V: [609.933.4293](tel:609.933.4293)

--

\*\*\*\*\*

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Acting Deputy Field Supervisor  
USFWS  
New York Field Office  
Cortland, NY 13045

607-299-0620

*"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." - Abraham Lincoln*

--

\*\*\*\*\*

Robyn A. Niver  
Endangered Species Biologist  
Acting Deputy Field Supervisor  
USFWS  
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Cortland, NY 13045

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[607-299-0620](tel:607-299-0620)

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Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

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## FW: Galloo Island bat survey

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Scott Reynolds <neesbats@comcast.net>  
To: Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 9:43 AM

I did not talk directly with Steve Tomasik – I dealt with Carl Herzog. I will forward you the relevant correspondence.

Scott

---

**From:** Herzog, Carl J (DEC) [mailto:[carl.herzog@dec.ny.gov](mailto:carl.herzog@dec.ny.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2015 8:57 AM  
**To:** [neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)  
**Cc:** Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC) <[stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov](mailto:stephen.tomasik@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Galloo Island bat survey

Scott,

We have no comments on your study plan. I'm frankly not sure whether the licenses can be issued that fast. It might go quicker if it's a renewal rather than a new application. You'll need both a License to Collect, Possess or Sell and an Endangered/Threatened Species License. Everything you need is available [on our web site](#).

I'll try to let the Special Licenses Unit know that this is coming.

Carl

Carl Herzog

Wildlife Biologist

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Wildlife Diversity Unit

office: [518-402-8908](tel:518-402-8908)

cell: [518-461-4582](tel:518-461-4582)

Note new e-mail address: [carl.herzog@dec.ny.gov](mailto:carl.herzog@dec.ny.gov)

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**From:** Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:12 PM  
**To:** Herzog, Carl J (DEC)  
**Subject:** FW: Galloo Island bat survey

Carl, can you answer this question?

---

**From:** Scott Reynolds [<mailto:neesbats@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:00 PM  
**To:** Tomasik, Stephen M (DEC)  
**Subject:** Galloo Island bat survey

Steve,

I am not sure what information you have been provided by Neil Habig and his group regarding the Galloo Island bat work. They have asked me to return to the site to conduct some mist-netting per the USFWS Phase 3 Guidelines and I submitted this proposal to Robyn Niver the other day. She is okay with the proposal and I wanted you to have a chance to comment on it. Also, I regrettably do not have a current NY handling permit for bats. I was hoping I could get one 'fast-tracked' in order to meet the USFWS sampling deadline. We plan on going to the site Aug 10-15 with your approval. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number below.

Cheers,

Scott

[D. Scott Reynolds, Ph.D.](#)

[North East Ecological Services](#)

P.O. Box 3596

Concord, NH 03302

[\(603\) 545-7012](tel:(603)545-7012)

[sreynolds@neesbats.org](mailto:sreynolds@neesbats.org)

[www.neesbats.org](http://www.neesbats.org)

10/5/2015

Hudson Energy Development Mail - FW: Galloo Island bat survey



Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

---

## FW: Galloo Island Bat Project

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**Scott Reynolds** <neesbats@comcast.net>  
To: Neil Habig <nhabig@hudsonenergydev.com>

Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 3:47 PM

Here is the email from Tim saying that they would just be requesting summer surveys (no more tower work).

Scott

---

**From:** Tim Sullivan [mailto:[tim\\_r\\_sullivan@fws.gov](mailto:tim_r_sullivan@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2015 3:39 PM  
**To:** Scott Reynolds <[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)>  
**Cc:** robyn\_niver <[robyn\\_niver@fws.gov](mailto:robyn_niver@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Galloo Island Bat Project

Scott,

We did discuss it and will be requesting just the summer surveys. Please refer to our 2015 survey guidelines for details on methodology and procedures. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Tim Sullivan

US Fish and Wildlife Service

3817 Luker Road

Cortland, NY 13045

(607)753-9334

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**From:** Scott Reynolds [mailto:[neesbats@comcast.net](mailto:neesbats@comcast.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2015 3:31 PM  
**To:** [Tim\\_Sullivan@fws.gov](mailto:Tim_Sullivan@fws.gov)  
**Subject:** Galloo Island Bat Project

Tim,



**Environmental Design & Research,**  
Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C.  
217 Montgomery Street, Suite 1000, Syracuse, New York 13202  
P. 315.471.0688 • F. 315.471.1061 • [www.edrdpc.com](http://www.edrdpc.com)

March 15, 2016

Ms. Andrea Chaloux  
Environmental Review Specialist  
New York Natural Heritage Program  
*Submitted via email: [NaturalHeritage@dec.ny.gov](mailto:NaturalHeritage@dec.ny.gov)*

**RE: Galloo Island Wind  
EDR Project No. 16015**

Dear Ms. Chaloux:

Environmental Design and Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) is compiling ecological information as part of an environmental review for a proposed wind power project on Galloo Island in the Town of Hounsfield in Jefferson County, New York. Please accept this request for any information you may have concerning documented endangered and threatened wildlife, significant habitats, and/or rare plant species in this area. I have enclosed a map of the project site, which is located within the Galloo Island USGS 7.5-Minute quadrangle.

If you have any questions regarding this data request or require additional project information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 315-471-0688, or [jrunner@edrdpc.com](mailto:jrunner@edrdpc.com). Thank you in advance for your attention to this request. I look forward to receiving your input on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacob Runner', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jacob Runner  
Environmental Analyst



## Galloo Island Wind

Town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County

### Project Area Map

March 2016

Notes: 1958 USGS Galloo Island 1:24000 topographic quadrangle.

2. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.

 Project Site



www.edrdpc.com

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
**Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources**  
**New York Natural Heritage Program**  
625 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Albany, New York 12233-4757  
**Phone:** (518) 402-8935 • **Fax:** (518) 402-8925  
**Website:** [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



April 6, 2016

Jacob Runner  
Environmental Design & Research  
217 Montgomery Street, Suite 1000  
Syracuse, NY 13202

Dear Mr. Runner:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the proposed Galloo Island Wind Project (EDR No. 16015), located in the Town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County, New York.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities, which our databases indicate occur within the Project Area. For further guidance regarding the state-listed animals listed in the report, please contact the NYS DEC Region 6 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, as listed at [www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html).

Also enclosed is a report of rare birds documented within 10 miles of the project site, and rare bats documented within 40 miles of the project site, for use in assessing potential impacts of bird and bat collisions. For information on NYSDEC's environmental review of proposed wind energy projects, and for the document *Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects*, please go to [www.dec.ny.gov/energy/66494.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/66494.html).

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our databases. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other resources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

Our databases are continually growing as records are added and updated. If this proposed project is still under development one year from now, we recommend that you contact us again so that we may update this response with the most current information.

Sincerely,

Nicholas B. Conrad  
Information Resources Coordinator  
NY Natural Heritage Program



**The following state-listed animals have been documented on Galloo Island.**

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed or are candidates for federal listing. The list may also include other rare animals and rare plants found with listed animals.

**For information about any permit considerations for your project, contact the Permits staff at the NYSDEC Region 6 Office. For information about potential impacts of your project on these species, and how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any impacts, contact the Wildlife Manager.**

**A listing of Regional Offices is at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html>.**

**The following species have been documented on Galloo Island. Potential impacts from the project may need to be addressed.**

<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i>	<i>NY STATE LISTING</i>	<i>FEDERAL LISTING</i>
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b> <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Threatened	11556

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted, and we cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the listed animals in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at [www.guides.nynhp.org](http://www.guides.nynhp.org), and from NYSDEC at [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html).



**The following rare animals have been documented in the  
general vicinity of the proposed Galloo Island Wind Project.**

The impacts of wind turbines on animals include both impacts due to disturbance at the site of the turbines, and impacts due to flying birds and bats colliding with turbine blades. Therefore, when screening proposed wind energy projects for potential impacts on rare species, in addition to reporting rare plants and animals documented at the project site itself, NY Natural Heritage reports species of rare birds documented within 10 miles of the project site, and rare bats documented within 40 miles of the project site. These distances were determined in consultation with the NYSDEC Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources.

For information on NYSDEC's environmental review of proposed wind energy projects, and for the document *Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects*, please go to [www.dec.ny.gov/energy/66494.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/66494.html).

**Bats within 40 miles**

<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i>	<i>NY STATE LISTING</i>	<i>HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS*</i>
<b>Indiana Bat</b> <i>Hibernacula and Non-winter locations</i>	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered <i>and Federally Listed as Endangered</i>	S1
<b>Northern Long-eared Bat</b> <i>Hibernacula and Non-winter locations</i>	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened <i>and Federally Listed as Threatened</i>	S1
<b>Eastern Small-footed Myotis</b> <i>Hibernaculum</i>	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Special Concern	S2

**Birds within 10 miles**

<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i>	<i>NY STATE LISTING</i>	<i>HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS*</i>
<b>Common Tern</b> <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Threatened	S3B
<b>Short-eared Owl</b> <i>Breeding and Wintering</i>	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Endangered	S2
<b>Black Tern</b> <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Endangered	S2B
<b>Sedge Wren</b> <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Threatened	S3B
<b>Northern Harrier</b> <i>Breeding and Wintering</i>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Threatened	S3B, S3N

<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b> <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Threatened	S3
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b> <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Threatened	S3
<b>Caspian Tern</b> <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Protected Bird	S1
<b>Cattle Egret</b> <i>Breeding</i>	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Protected Bird	S2

\* Conservation status in NYS as ranked by NY Natural Heritage Program on a 1 to 5 scale:

S1 = Critically imperiled

S2 = Imperiled

S3 = Rare or uncommon

S4 = Abundant and apparently secure

S5 = Demonstrably abundant and secure

B after one of the above ranks indicates the status rank is for breeding populations only.

N after one of the above ranks indicates the status rank is for nonbreeding wintering populations only.

# Galloo Island Wind

## *IPaC Trust Resources Report*

Generated April 07, 2016 08:16 AM MDT, IPaC v3.0.0

This report is for informational purposes only and should not be used for planning or analyzing project level impacts. For project reviews that require U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service review or concurrence, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list from the Regulatory Documents page.



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- Project Description ..... [1](#)
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- Refuges & Hatcheries ..... [5](#)
- Wetlands ..... [6](#)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# IPaC Trust Resources Report

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NAME

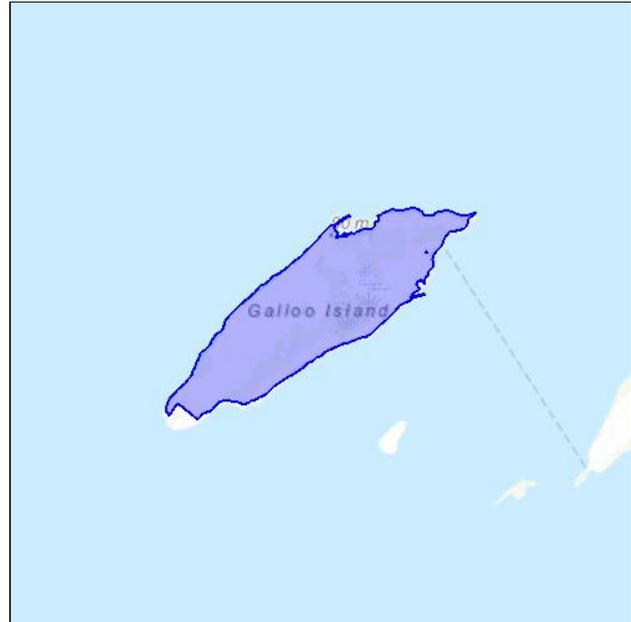
Galloo Island Wind

LOCATION

Jefferson County, New York

IPAC LINK

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/project/UK573-4IEHZ-C4HEH-BFH2J-KK6RMA>



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Contact Information

Trust resources in this location are managed by:

**New York Ecological Services Field Office**

3817 Luker Road

Cortland, NY 13045-9349

(607) 753-9334

## Endangered Species

Proposed, candidate, threatened, and endangered species are managed by the [Endangered Species Program](#) of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**This USFWS trust resource report is for informational purposes only and should not be used for planning or analyzing project level impacts.**

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list from the Regulatory Documents section.

[Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency.

**A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can only be obtained by requesting an official species list either from the Regulatory Documents section in IPaC or from the local field office directly.**

The list of species below are those that may occur or could potentially be affected by activities in this location:

### Mammals

**Indiana Bat** *Myotis sodalis* Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

**No critical habitat** has been designated for this species.

[https://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A000](https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A000)

**Northern Long-eared Bat** *Myotis septentrionalis* Threatened

CRITICAL HABITAT

**No critical habitat** has been designated for this species.

[https://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A0JE](https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A0JE)

### Critical Habitats

**There are no critical habitats in this location**

# Migratory Birds

Birds are protected by the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) and the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#).

Any activity that results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.<sup>[1]</sup> There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in the take of migratory birds is responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations and implementing appropriate conservation measures.

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1. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern  
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>
- Conservation measures for birds  
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>
- Year-round bird occurrence data  
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/akn-histogram-tools.php>

The following species of migratory birds could potentially be affected by activities in this location:

<b>American Bittern</b> <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0F3">https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0F3</a>	
<b>Black Tern</b> <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B09F">https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B09F</a>	
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b> <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0HI">https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0HI</a>	
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b> <i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding	

<b>Canada Warbler</b> <i>Wilsonia canadensis</i> Season: Breeding	Bird of conservation concern
<b>Common Tern</b> <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Season: Breeding <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B09G">https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B09G</a>	Bird of conservation concern
<b>Golden-winged Warbler</b> <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> Season: Breeding <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0G4">https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0G4</a>	Bird of conservation concern
<b>Least Bittern</b> <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> Season: Breeding <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B092">https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B092</a>	
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b> <i>Contopus cooperi</i> Season: Breeding <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0AN">https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0AN</a>	Bird of conservation concern
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b> <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> Season: Breeding	Bird of conservation concern
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> Season: Breeding	Bird of conservation concern
<b>Short-eared Owl</b> <i>Asio flammeus</i> Season: Wintering <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0HD">https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0HD</a>	Bird of conservation concern
<b>Wood Thrush</b> <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> Season: Breeding	Bird of conservation concern
<b>Yellow Rail</b> <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i> Season: Breeding <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0JG">https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0JG</a>	Bird of conservation concern

## Wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries

**There are no refuges or fish hatcheries in this location**

# Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

## DATA LIMITATIONS

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

## DATA EXCLUSIONS

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

## DATA PRECAUTIONS

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Wetland data is unavailable at this time.

Did you have a chance to talk with Robyn about the Galloo Island proposal? I was hoping to get a scope of work to the developers this week.

Cheers,

Scott

D. Scott Reynolds, Ph.D.

North East Ecological Services

P.O. Box 3596

Concord, NH 03302

(603) 545-7012

[sreynolds@neesbats.org](mailto:sreynolds@neesbats.org)

[www.neesbats.org](http://www.neesbats.org)