

Atlantic Canada Terrestrial Priorities Statement Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP) 2019-2020

I. Overview of HSP Terrestrial Priorities

As outlined in the national call for proposals and program application guidelines, a two-level approach will be used for prioritizing terrestrial stewardship projects in 2019-2020. Aquatic projects will be administered by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Level 1 (Highest) Priorities: Nationally Significant Places, Species, Sectors and Threats

Priority Places

Priority Places represent landscapes of significant conservation value, such as those with high occurrences and/or diversity of species at risk, or those with important habitat for these species. These places have also been targeted as having existing conservation opportunities with active partners and stakeholders which can be expanded on or leveraged through more targeted program funding to increase successful conservation outcomes. Please note that, at this time, not all provinces or territories have priority places identified as Level 1 Priority.

Priority Species

Priority species are iconic species that are the focus of significant conservation interest and efforts both in Canada and, in some cases, internationally. These species may also be umbrella or keystone species which will result in improved conservation for other species sharing their habitat when conservation actions are targeted to them.

Priority Sectors and Threats

Priority sectors and threats were chosen given the impact they have on species at risk, migratory birds and their habitats in most parts of Canada. The priority sectors and threats are intentionally broad in scope in order to allow region-specific prioritization of conservation concerns.

Level 2 (Secondary) Priorities: Regional Priority Areas, Species, and Threats

Level 2 (secondary) priorities include priority places, priority species, and threats that are not addressed by the Level 1 priorities.

II. HSP Species at Risk (SAR) Stream Terrestrial Priorities – Atlantic Canada

Important Note:

All HSP SAR Stream proposals must demonstrate how the activities proposed will address priority approaches, strategies, measures, and/or actions outlined in Recovery Strategies, Action Plans, or Management Plans. Proposals will only be assessed as meeting a Level 1 and/or Level 2 priority or priorities when these links are clearly demonstrated. For example, proposals will only be assessed as meeting the ‘invasive species threat’ priority under Level 1 if invasive species are identified as a threat to the target species at risk in Recovery Documents and proposed activities directly address this threat using approaches outlined in Recovery Documents (approaches identified by species recovery experts may also be considered where specific approaches are not identified in Recovery Documents, or are identified only in general terms).

Level 1: HSP SAR Stream Terrestrial Priority Places in Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Region has identified three priority places for the 2019-2020 funding round (Figure 1):

1) Southwest Nova Scotia

Southwest Nova Scotia is one of the most biologically diverse areas of the province, containing an outstanding assemblage of significant biodiversity features, including a number of Nova Scotia’s rarest terrestrial species. The region contains a high concentration of federally and provincially listed species at risk.

2) Saint John River Bioregion

The New Brunswick portion of the Saint John River Bioregion contains a diverse assemblage of habitats, including productive riparian areas, freshwater wetlands and areas of relatively intact, forested landscapes. This biologically diverse region contains a high density of federally and provincially listed species at risk.

3) Prince Edward Island forested landscape

Prince Edward Island retains important patches of mature Acadian forest, despite extensive conversion to agriculture, along with other natural forest, forest plantation and regenerating harvest areas. Approximately 41% of the provincial landscape is forested. The forested landscape on Prince Edward Island contains several federally listed species at risk as well as other provincially rare species.

Level 1: Nationally-Identified HSP SAR Stream Terrestrial Priority Species, Sectors, and Threats Occurring in Atlantic Canada

Priority Species	Priority Sectors and Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SARA-listed Bat Species⁺ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Little Brown Myotis (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>) ○ Tri-colored Bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>) ○ Northern Myotis (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) • Monarch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Sector • Agriculture Sector • Urban Development Sector • Invasive Species

+Bat boxes will not likely be funded as additional research is needed to understand their utility as a conservation tool.

Level 2: HSP SAR Stream Terrestrial Regional Priority Places, Species, and Threats

Regional priority places are specific areas such as ecosystems identified in large scale habitat conservation plans or in multispecies strategic planning exercises. These places have been selected because of a high density of species at risk and species of conservation concern, high number of human-induced threats, stewardship opportunities, and other similar factors.

Regional priority species are priorities for funding due to their status under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, and due to the number and severity of threats facing the species. These species may or may not fall within a regional priority place.

For priority threats, please see Level 1. No additional threats have been identified under this section for Atlantic Canada.

Priority Places (Figures 2 and 3)	Priority Species	Priority Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Beaches, Dunes and Marshes • Forested Habitat* • Limestone Barrens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piping Plover • SARA-listed Cyanolichens • SARA-listed Turtle species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A (see Level 1)

*Forested Habitats of key importance include the following: older forest, older Acadian Forest stands, mature wet forest, riparian forest, and high-elevation forest.

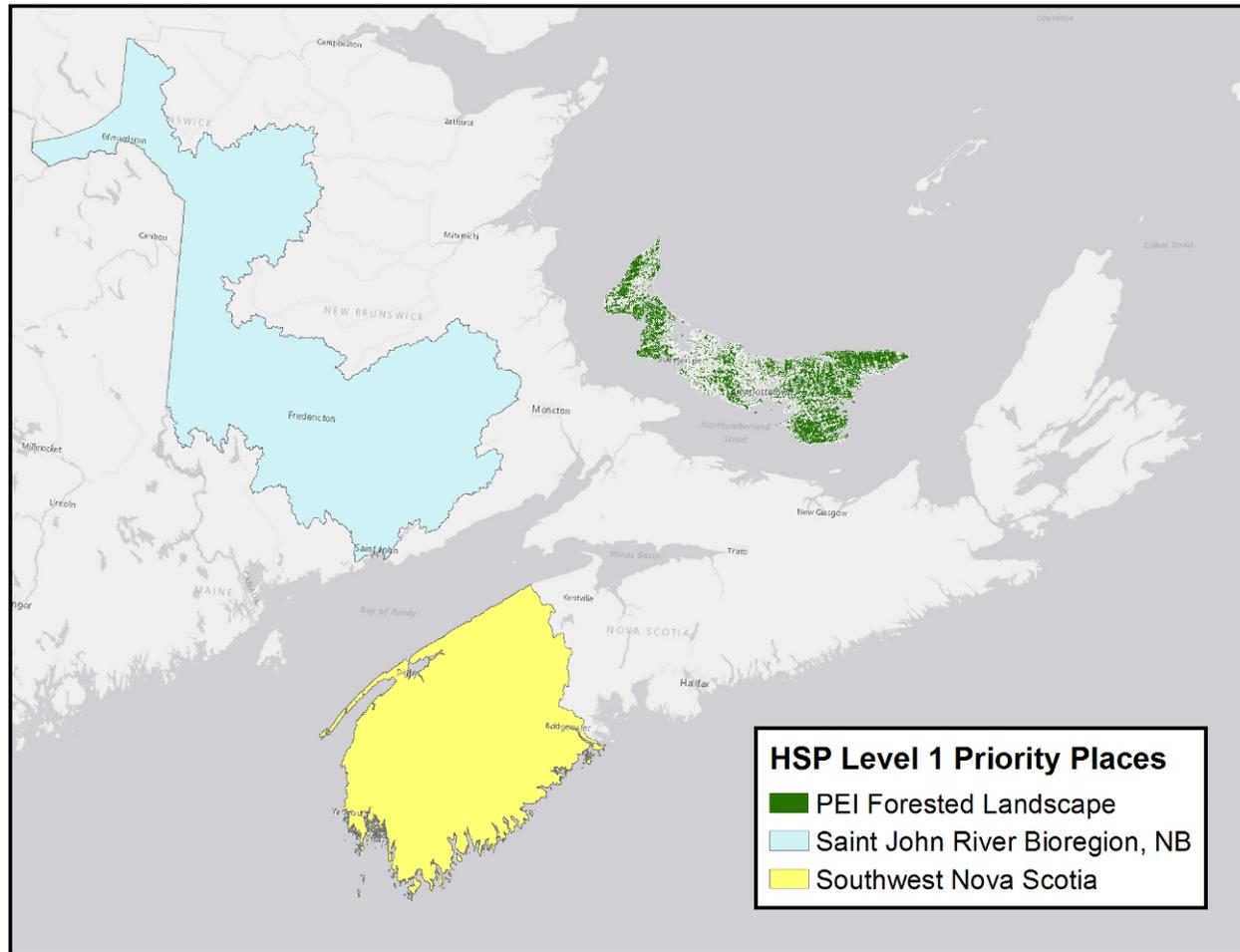


Figure 1. Approximate Boundaries of the HSP SAR Stream Terrestrial Level 1 (Highest) Priority Places.

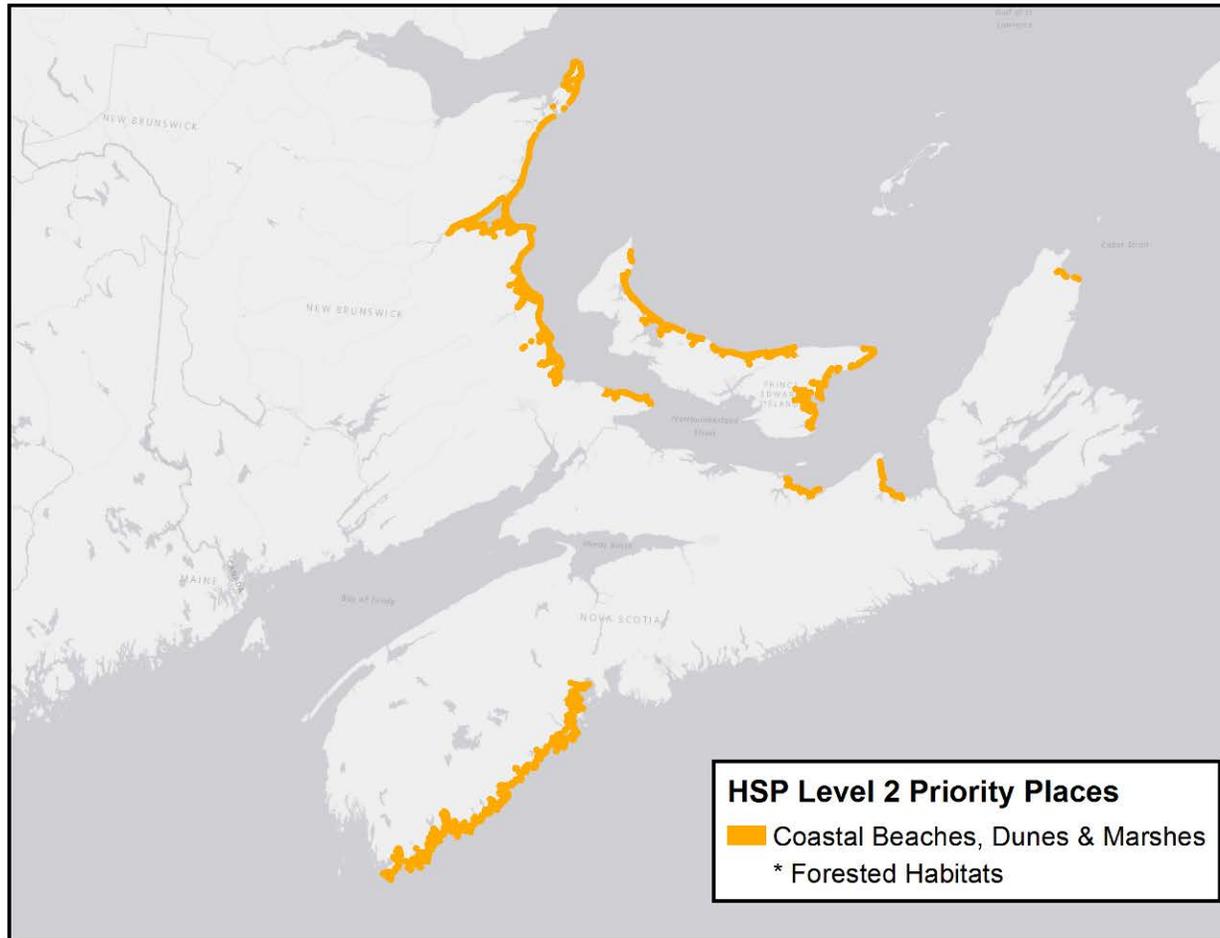


Figure 2. HSP SAR Stream Terrestrial Level 2 (Secondary) Priority Places: Maritime Provinces

***Note:** Forested Habitats are not mapped, but forested habitats of key importance include the following: older forest, older Acadian forest stands, mature wet forest, riparian forest, and high-elevation forest.

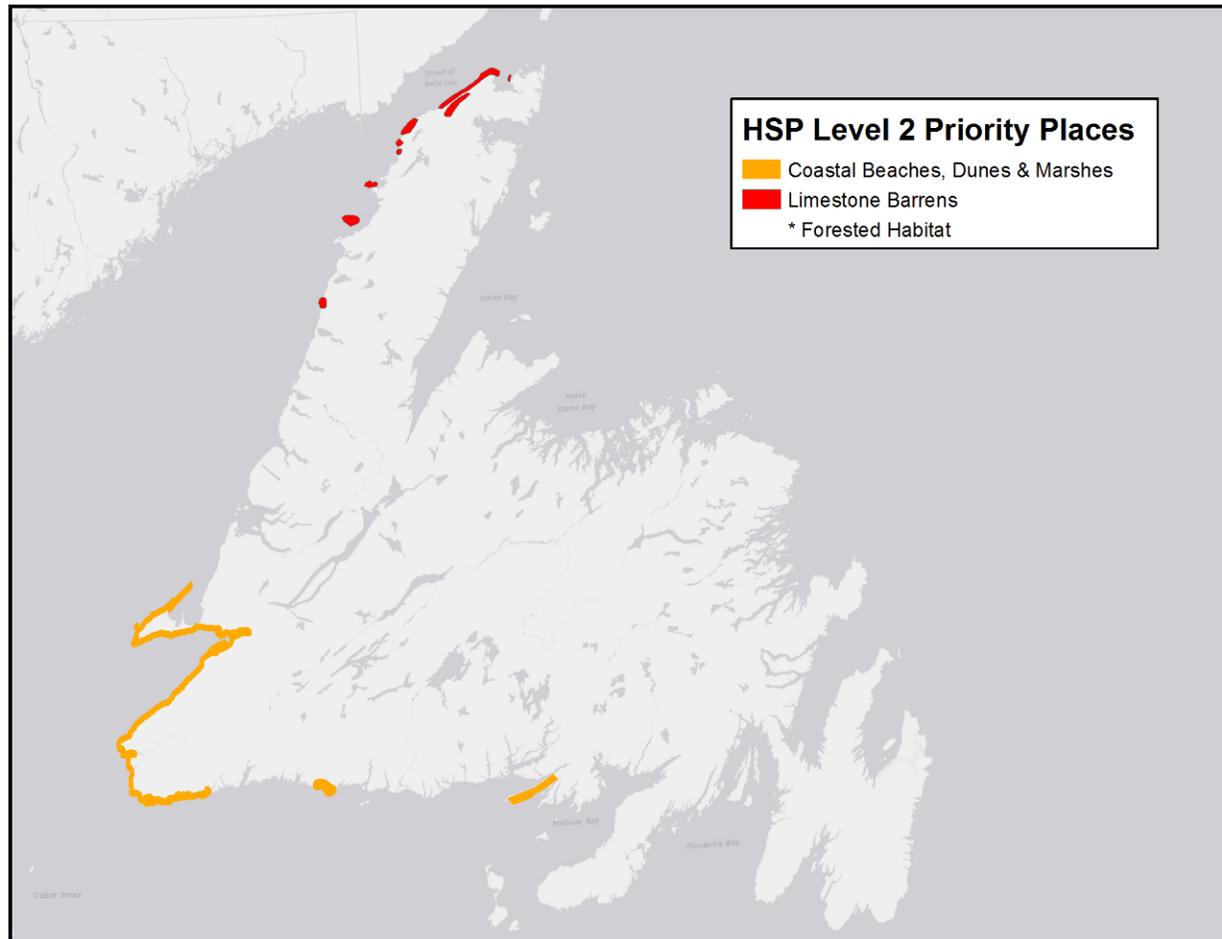


Figure 3. HSP-SAR Terrestrial Level 2 (Secondary) Priority Places: Newfoundland

***Note:** Forested Habitats are not mapped, but forested habitats of key importance include the following: older forest, older Acadian forest stands, mature wet forest, riparian forest, and high-elevation forest.