

Northeast Bat Working Group

A Proposal for a Closed Vote
on the Following Position Statement ...

NEBWG takes the position that enactment in 2013 of a acoustically-based presence absence protocol for *Myotis sodalis* is premature.

Without tools that support the core assumption that *Myotis sodalis* can be accurately identified by acoustic calls, and in absence of providing these tools for use and testing well in advance of implementation, this body does not support enactment.

Further, premature enactment runs contrary to and works against the actions needed for recovery of the species and therefore the goals of the Endangered Species Act.

Data from range-wide capture and acoustic surveys does not support the premise that MYOSOD is more likely to be identified by echolocation calls than by netting or trapping

False-positives and/or false negatives will be more likely from acoustic surveys than from netting or trapping.

Inconclusive data from surveys will not advance the goals and objectives of species recovery and may alienate business and industry faced with requirements for mitigation.

The proposed guidance document does not represent the best-science.



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