



Shelburne County Fish & Game Association

Improving the Nesting Success of Eider Ducks

Final Report - June 2004

The Shelburne County Fish & Game Association (SCFGA) began the Eider Duck Nesting Box Program in 2002. Many members helped in construction of the nesting boxes which were made from wooden fish crates. Upon completion, the boxes were placed on islands along the coast of Shelburne County from Seal Island at the western end of the county to Ram Island in the east.

The nest boxes were put on the following islands:

Island	# Boxes	Island	# Boxes
Seal Island	25	Stoddards Island	10
Mutton Island	10	Solomon's Island	20
Green Island	15	Bear Point Thrums	20
Fish Island	10	Calf Island	5
Barrington Bay	15	Johns Island	5
Blanche Island	10	Ram Island	

First season results varied from poor, in such areas in Seal Island, to very good in Barrington Bay with approximately 70% success rate. In spots where ducks did not actually nest in boxes, they often nested close beside them.

SCFGA plans are to continue this program during the next few years and may require additional future funding in order to provide maintenance, replacement and monitoring of the nests. It is also in the group's planning to relocate some nests to other areas where there are existing sites of eider ducks.

The primary threat to the eider, appears, from all reports, to be the black-backed gull, seizing many of the young ducks as they enter the water.

In conclusion, the project has been both an enjoyable, educational experience for the members although disappointing at times when the results were not as favorable as hoped in certain areas.

SCFGA has advertised the project at exhibitions through photos and conversation and displays in addition to reports and articles in the local newspaper, The Shelburne County Coast Guard.

Richard Swain
Shelburne County Fish & Wildlife Association

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