

Human Energy Needs vs. Sea Duck Needs: Industry, Conservation, and Government Perspectives

Organized by:

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This workshop will provide objective review from leaders in the energy industry and major conservation organizations in regard to the positive and negative factors affecting sea ducks from energy development. Increasing human populations, especially in the East, have placed more pressure on the breeding, molting, staging, and wintering habitats used by North American sea duck populations. Oil platforms, hydro power reservoirs, and wind turbines have usurped habitats that are important to sea ducks, but there is a possibility that these changes have not affected populations and in some cases could be providing improved habitat. Direct mortality from oil spills and wind turbines have concerned waterfowl managers, but little is known how this mortality affects populations. The discussion in this workshop will attempt to provide current information on energy and sea duck needs with a goal to narrow the divide so we can seek solutions to satisfy human needs while minimizing impact to sea ducks.