



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Natural Resource Program Center  
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Dr. Jana Newman  
Manager  
Inventory and Monitoring Program  
National Wildlife Refuge System

14 January 2015

Dr. Newman,

I am providing you with the final draft (Version 1.0) of a *National Protocol Framework for the Inventory and Monitoring of Nonbreeding Waterbirds and their Habitats*, authored by Brian Loges and colleagues. This framework will guide the development of site-specific surveys at refuges in Regions 3, 4, 5 and most recently Region 2.

The guidance in this document is based on methodology that has been used, tested and revised at several refuges. The 11 November draft currently posted in ServCat, received 120 comments from three (Internal) Zone Biologists, one from each of the regions proposing to use the framework at the time of drafting, and three (External) reviewers from outside the Fish and Wildlife Service. The comments were compiled by Jennifer Herner-Thogmartin (USGS) and were responded to and incorporated by primary authors into the attached final draft. In addition, I read through the document and comments, and provided edits for style and adherence to our survey protocol standards on 4 different occasions. The time to produce the final draft required approximately 1 year. Jennifer also passed that draft to all of the authors and inquired about their concurrence and continued listing as an author. There were no objections by those currently listed as authors.

Given the quality of the content and the thorough review process, I would like to recommend that this document be approved as a National Survey Protocol Framework for the Refuge System. Following your approval, this version with a scanned signature page will be uploaded to ServCat along with the attached file showing the reviewers comments and author's revisions as a digital holding of record number: [29343](#). The protocol status will be updated to National Approved (3N) and the I&M community can be made aware of this new reference. All files, including the various drafts and pertinent correspondence will be stored in a folder on our share point site under Protocols>ReportsInterim>Formal Protocol Reviews>[WMM Waterbird Habitat Condition and Use](#).

Please let me know if you have any questions about this protocol framework, its review or my recommendation. If you agree, simply print a copy of the signature page from the attached document, sign and date and return to me. I will be sure that it is included in the approved version. Also, let me know if you have any suggested modifications and I will pass those on to the lead author.

Sincerely,

James P. Ward, Jr., PhD.  
Ecologist, I&M, NWRS  
enclos.