

Conservation Status of the Atlantic Coast Piping Plover

A photograph of an Atlantic Coast Piping Plover standing in a field of tall, thin grasses. The bird is white with a dark collar around its neck and a dark stripe through its eye. It is facing right. The background is a sandy area with more grasses.

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Photo: Suzi Fox

Five Delisting Criteria

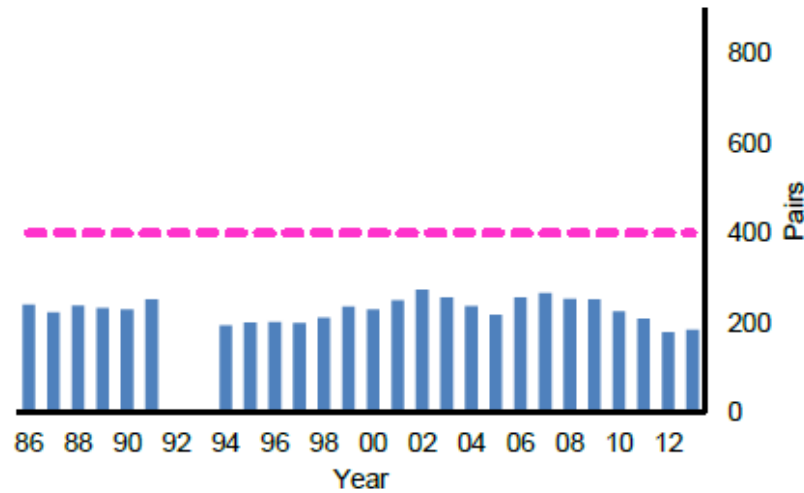
1. 2000 pairs for five years distributed among four recovery units:
 - Atlantic Canada: 400 pairs
 - **New England: 625 pairs**
 - New York-New Jersey: 575 pairs
 - Southern: 400 pairs

Delisting Criteria

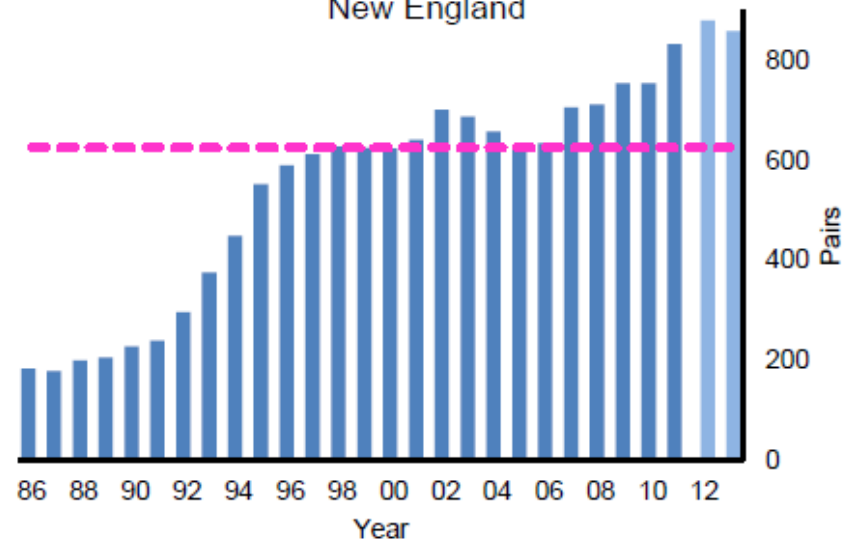
2. Verify adequacy of 2000 pairs to maintain long-term heterozygosity and allelic diversity
3. 5-year avg. productivity of 1.5 chicks per pair in each recovery unit *
4. **Long-term agreements to ensure protection and management sufficient to maintain criteria 1 and 3**
5. Long-term maintenance of wintering habitat to maintain survival rates for a 2000 pair population

Atlantic Coast Piping Plover Abundance by Recovery Unit, 1986-2013

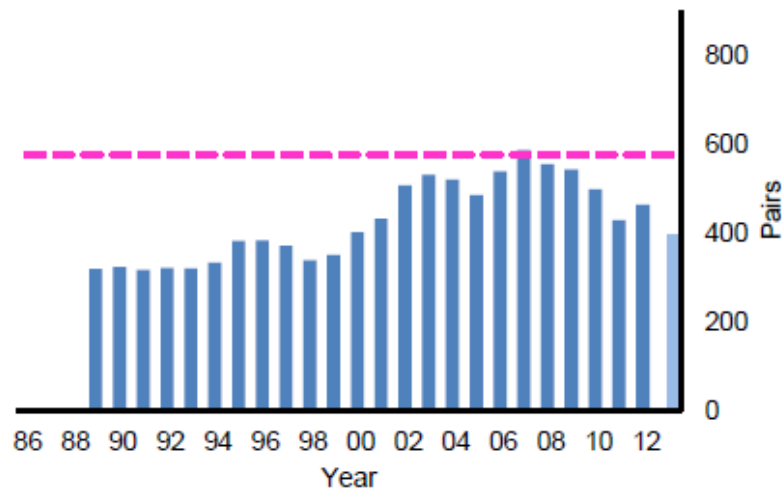
Eastern Canada



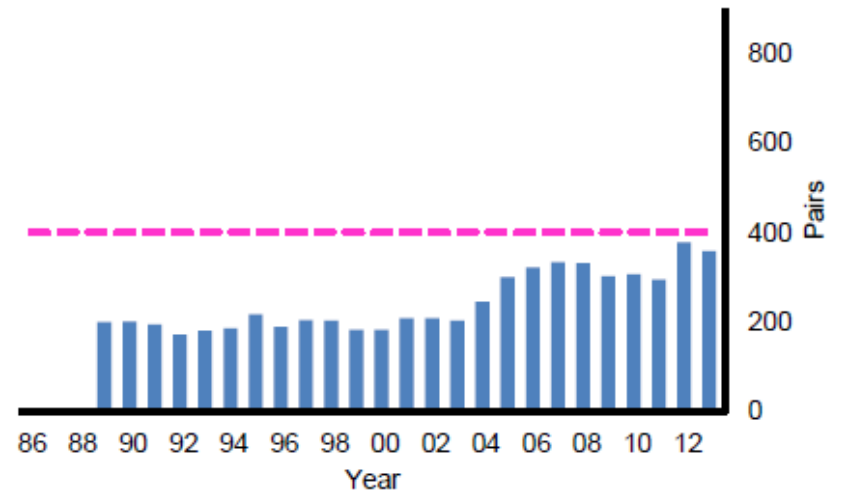
New England



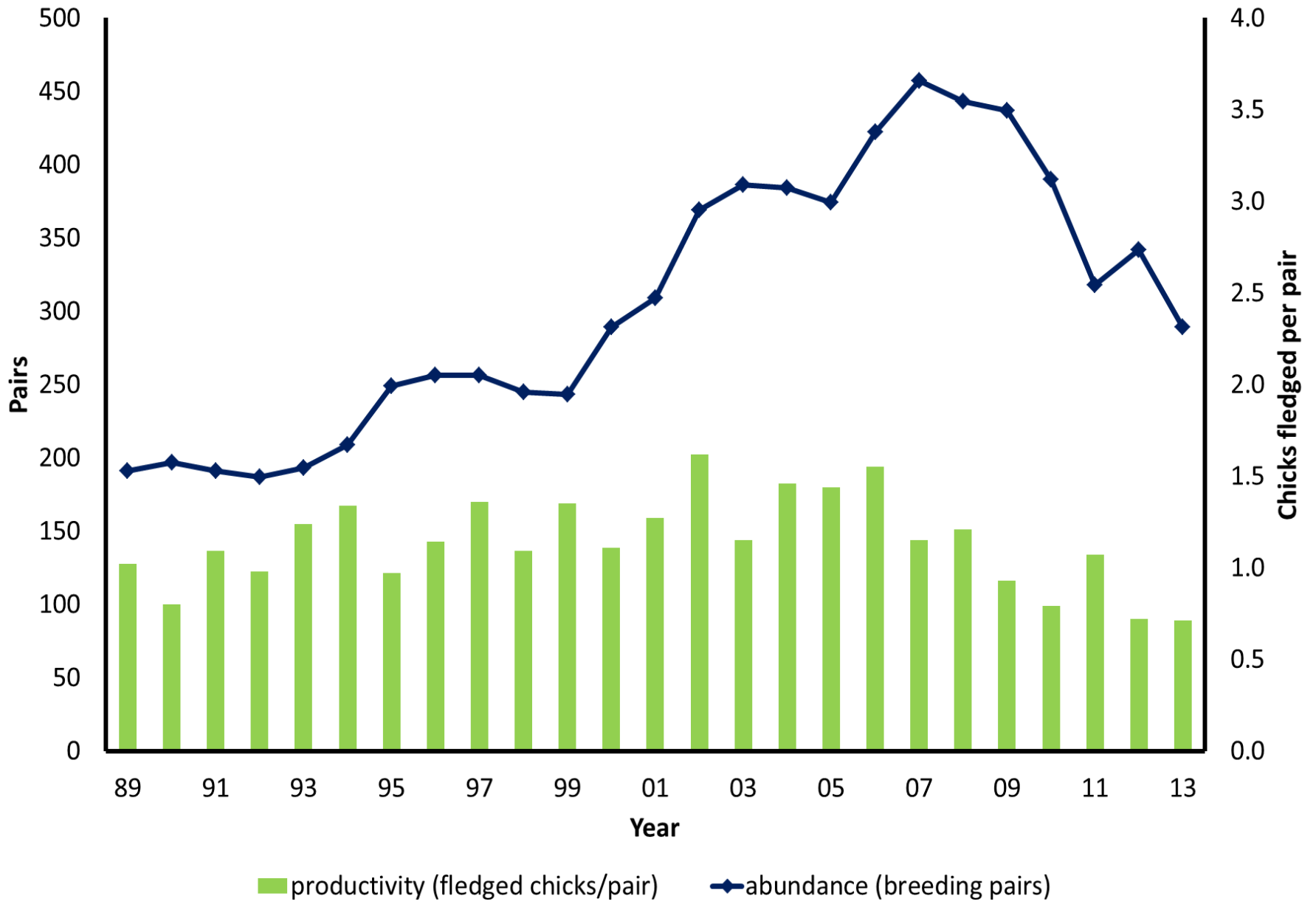
NY-NJ



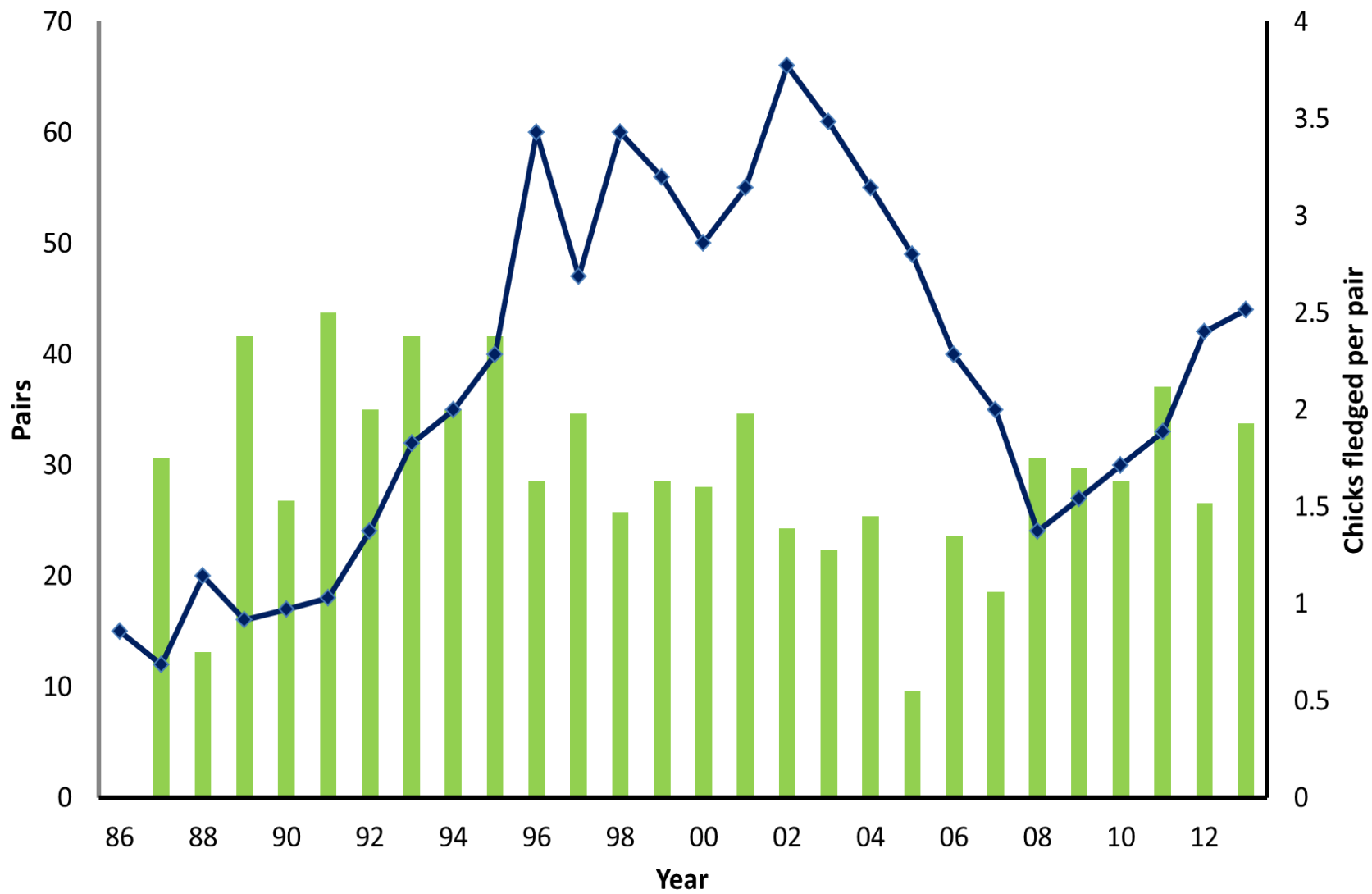
Southern (DE - NC)



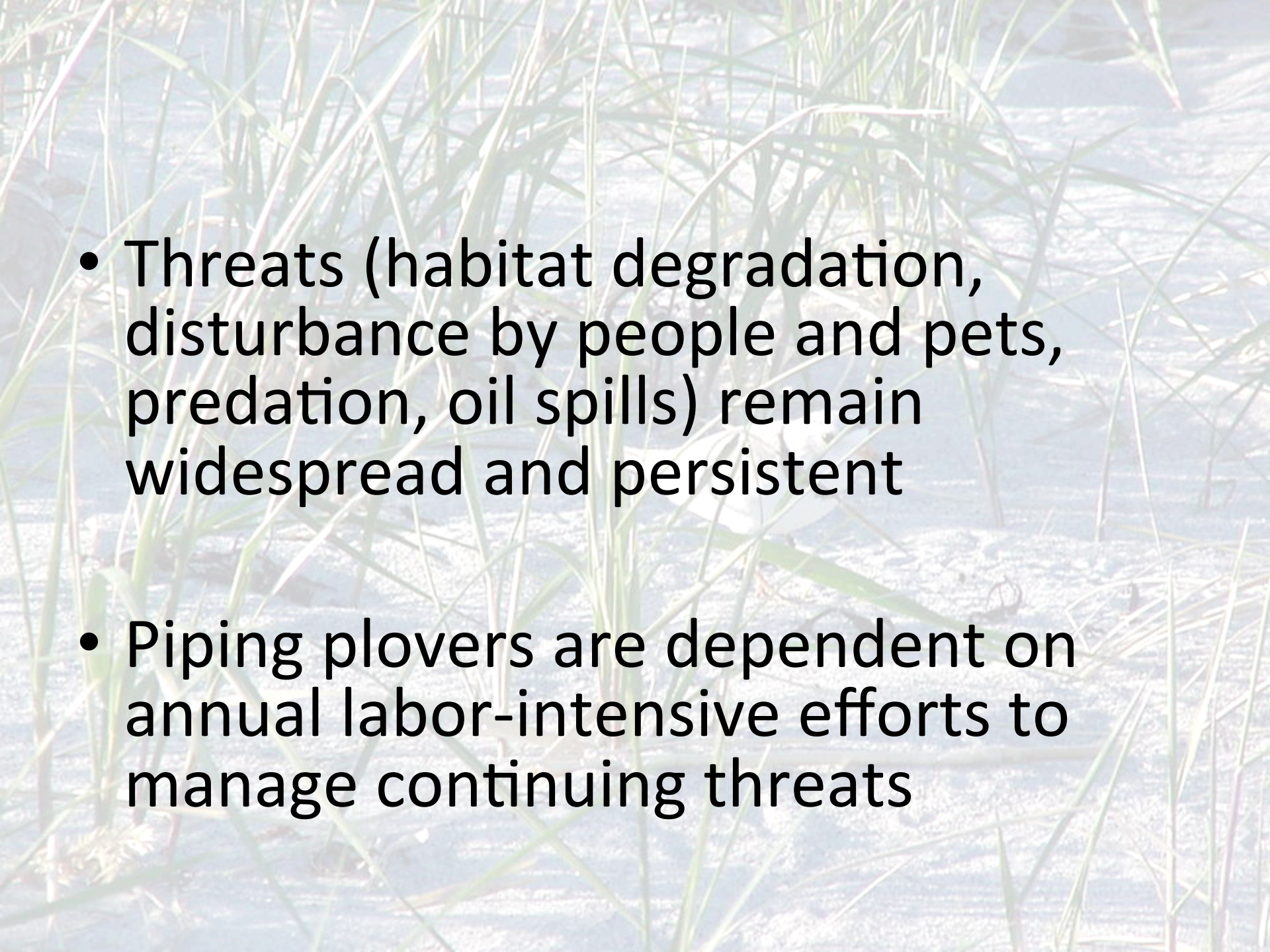
New York



Maine



■ productivity (fledged chicks/pair) ◆ abundance (breeding pairs)

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- A piping plover bird is shown sitting on a sandy beach. The bird is white with a dark cap and is facing towards the right. The background consists of tall, thin grasses and a sandy surface. The image is slightly faded to allow text to be overlaid.
- Threats (habitat degradation, disturbance by people and pets, predation, oil spills) remain widespread and persistent
 - Piping plovers are dependent on annual labor-intensive efforts to manage continuing threats

Take home points for HCPs in Massachusetts

- Massachusetts piping plovers can withstand limited take without impairing survival and recovery
- However:
 - Breeding pairs must be maintained long-term
 - Habitat capacity must be maintained
 - Take should be cautiously implemented because piping plover populations are susceptible to rapid declines

