

Comment from New York State Conservation Council, Inc.

The is a Comment on the **Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)** Proposed Rule: **Migratory Bird Permits: Management of Conflicts Associated with Double-Crested Cormorants (Phalacrocorax auritus) Throughout the United States**

For related information, [Open Docket Folder](#)

Comment

Attached are comments from the New York State Conservation Council, Inc. regarding management of double-crested cormorants.

Attachments (1)

[Cormorants - USFWS DEIS](#)

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ID: FWS-HQ-MB-2019-0103-2287

Tracking Number: kcu-s5vb-pm1g

Document Information

Date Posted:

Jul 20, 2020

RIN:

1018-BE67

[Show More Details](#) 

Submitter Information

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July 20, 2020

The New York State Conservation Council commends the USFWS for its DEIS on double crested cormorants, which have been a nuisance species in New York State for decades.

Having to certify that a non-lethal control method is ineffective before a lethal method will be approved further delays effective management of the birds. New York's Department of Environmental Conservation has attempted to establish control measures for years with past efforts already failing to meet goals; hence the interest in moving forward with lethal means. As to oiling of eggs, why is the recommendation to use only corn oil? As long as an oil is of low toxicity (i.e., consumable by humans), we feel other oils (sunflower, safflower, cottonseed, soy) should be allowed for egg oiling.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has collected information for years about controls used and the successes and failures of each method. It seems redundant to now require a 'detailed statement' about how controls will address the problem when it is generally acknowledged and documented that there is a problem. Sufficient data has been collected to assess control efforts attempted in the past; depredation orders worked well, but proposed permit requirements could be overly burdensome and further delay control of the cormorants.

While we acknowledge that care must be taken to address the concerns of all constituents, those interested in cormorant control are not seeking total extermination, but rather manageable numbers to the point that bird watchers can still enjoy seeing them while fishermen will not have to compete with the voracious birds to obtain their catch.