

6 March 2013

USFish&Wildlife Service
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Dear Colleagues:

I am writing concerning the comments about the guidelines for monitoring the distribution and relative abundance of *Myotis sodalis*. Based on >40 years of experience working with bats, often by monitoring their echolocation calls, I question the wisdom of not permitting (indeed encouraging) some sampling by captures (mist nets or harp traps). I offer this opinion because of the difficulty in consistently and accurately identifying *Myotis sodalis* by its echolocation calls, particularly when it is in the same area (space and time) as *Myotis lucifugus*.

Indeed, I am surprised that you are not insisting on use of DNA barcoding to ensure correct identification of specimens. This can be achieved by wing punches (better to use interfemoral membrane). For some colleagues the challenge of recognizing *Myotis sodalis* in the hand is as difficult as identifying them by their echolocation calls.

Please note that my opinion presumes informed and experienced workers in the field, and does not require any "collection" of specimens. I agree that encouraging netting and trapping during the period when female bats are nursing is inappropriate.

Thank you for considering this opinion.

Sincerely



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