

## **Response to Questionnaire about next World Seabird Conference (WSC2)**

Dear All

We attach below the full detail of the responses to Questions 1-9 in the questionnaire circulated by the WSC1 Conference Secretariat (De Armond Management) on behalf of the WSC1 Executive.

In consultation with Marischal De Armond, David Irons and John Croxall would offer the following overall summary for consideration by the Transition Team.

### **Overall summary**

1. Excellent and fully representative response, with 524 replies in total, comprising 52% full attendees, 23% students and (important) 23% non-attendees. Of seabird group members, responses from members of all those which sponsored WSC, most from PSG (171), The Waterbird Group (71) and The Seabird Group (61); notably, 158 responses from those who are member of no seabird group.
2. For year of next WSC, no clear preference between 2013 (35%), 2014 (26%), 2015 (37%); probably best now to leave this to those who wish to propose organising WSC2. Similarly, advice on frequency is almost equally split between 3-year (25%), 4-year (30%) and 5-year (25%).
3. For time of year of next WSC, clear preference for September/October (52% of first choices, 34% of second and 24% of third). Next most favoured is August, then February but neither much exceeded 10% of any choice.
4. Conjunction with other international seabird meetings not especially important, with 74% favouring WSC determining its own schedule independently (possibly reflecting that 72% do not regularly attend IAPC, IPC or IOC).

### **Next steps**

On this basis, we would propose that the Transition Team circulates, to all seabird organisations and all individuals who requested a response, the summary above plus the tabulated/illustrated analysed responses for Questions 1- 9.

We should preface this with text based on the second paragraph of the "Process" text that accompanied this survey, making it clear that, on the basis of this information, we are inviting brief expressions of interest from organisations considering making a formal offer to host WSC2. These responses, to be received by [deadline], would then be considered by the Transition Team, in order to develop a short list of those invited to submit formal bids for further consideration.

This text might be along the following lines.

“As indicated in the text accompanying the survey, we are now inviting formal expressions of interest in holding the next World Seabird Conference. An expression of interest response outline and submission deadline accompanies this summary. These submissions (no more than 2 sides of A4) will be reviewed and, assuming more than two are received, a shortlist drawn up of bodies/organisations which will then be invited to submit a more substantial formal proposal. This proposal will also need to take account of a document that the Transition Team intends to prepare on the key prerequisites for holding a World Seabird Conference, based on what we learnt at the First World Seabird Conference and on the responses received to the recent post conference questionnaire sent out by the Conference Secretariat. We hope to complete all this process before the end of 2011 in order to be able to select the host and venue for the Second World Seabird Conference in 2012. Please send responses to ....., to arrive by ..... 2011”

The members of the Transition Team are strongly encouraged to draw this to the attention of their respective organisations.