

WSU Conference Call
Pacific Call 2400 GMT Thursday, 04 Oct, 2012
Atlantic Call 1700 GMT Thursday, 11 Oct, 2012

WSUTT Member Organizations & Representatives					
Member Organization	Representative	Initials	Role*	Oct 5	Oct 12
Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird)	Dave Irons, Chair	DI	P	A	A
BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme	John Croxall, Vice-Chair	JC			A
African Seabird Group	Ross Wanless	RW	P		
American Bird Conservancy	George Wallace	GW	P		
Argentine Seabird Group	Pablo Yorio	PY	P		
Australasian Seabird Group	Peter Dann	PD	P		
Australasian Seabird Group	Nicholas Carlile	NC	A	A	
BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme	Ben Sullivan	BS	P		
BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme	Ben Lascelles	BL	A		
Dutch Seabird Group	Kees Camphuysen	KC	P		A
European Seabirds at Sea Group	Stefan Garthe	SG	P		
Indian Ocean Seabird Group	Matthieu Le Corre	MLC	P		
Japan Seabird Group	Yutaka Watanuki	YW	P		
Medmaravis	Carles Carboneras	CC	P		A
NW Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative	Melanie Steinkamp	MS	P		
Ornithological Society of New Zealand	Graeme Taylor	GT	P		
Pacific Seabird Group	Pat Jodice	PJ	P		A
Pacific Seabird Group	Michelle Kappas	MK	A		
Peruvian Assn for the Conservation of Nature	Liliana Ayala	LA	P		
Royal Naval Birdwatching Society	Steve Copsey	SC	P		
Soc for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds	Will Mackin	WM	P		A
The Seabird Group	Linda Wilson	LW	A		
The Seabird Group	Russell Wynn	WR	P		
The Waterbird Society	Betty Anne Schreiber	BAS	P		
Waterbird Conservation of the Americas	Jennifer Wheeler	JW	P		A
* Role: P=Primary Representative, A=Alternate Representative					
Associates (non-voting)					
International Penguin Society	Pablo Garcia Borboroglu	PGB	P		
International Penguin Society	Dee Boersma	DB	A		
WSU Support Team					
Seabirds.net	Annette Henry	AH			
Seabirds.net	Grant Humphries	GH		A	
WSU Secretariat	Marischal De Armond	MD		A	A
Global Seabird Colony Register	Robb Kaler	RK		A	A
Attendance: A = Attended					

Minutes

04 Oct – DI called the meeting to order at 24:04 GMT

11 Oct – DI called the meeting to order at 17:03 GMT

Review of Action Items – Action items are covered in the respective agenda items. Action items noted in black indicate that the action item has been completed. Current action items remain in red.

1. Establishment of World Seabird Union

ACTION: 12 July – DI to develop a slate of candidates for the board representatives.

04 Oct – DI confirmed the following candidates have expressed interest in serving on the board

- North America – PJ
- Europe – KC
- Australasia – NC
- Asia – YW
- South America – PY
- Africa – MLC

DI also noted that he is interested in continuing in the role of Chair, and NC has expressed interest in serving as the Secretary. JC confirmed he will not stand for Vice Chair. Per the Society bylaws, the slate of candidates must be presented to the members via mail or email with the members being given 30 days to cast their vote for candidates. It was suggested that the slate be circulated following the Oct 12 meeting. It was agreed that the new board would take effect as of January 1, 2013.

GH indicated that once the new Board Members have been confirmed he will gather their photos and bios and update the website accordingly.

04 Oct – DI confirmed that OSNZ has accepted our invitation to become a WSU member and the Graeme Taylor would serve as their representative.

11 Oct – No updates

ACTION: 11 Oct – DI to poll existing members to identify a treasurer. Due to the Society being established in the US, it is preferable that the treasurer be from the US

ACTION: 11 Oct – DI will issue an electronic ballot to all WSU representatives (primary) for the election of the board. This will be issued once a Treasurer has been identified.

2. World Seabird Conference

ACTION: 23 July – PJ/MD to circulate conference hosting documents to the WSU committee for their feedback

DI indicated that both he and JC have reviewed these documents

ACTION: 12 July – PJ to approach Denmark contact and JC to contact RW regarding the African Seabird Group to explore their interest in hosting WSC2.

04 Oct – DI indicated that RW remains interested in serving as the WSC2 representative, but this has not yet been confirmed.

11 Oct – No updates

ACTION: 11 Oct – PJ to issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) for regions/organizations to host the 2015 WSC. The deadline for responses to this EOI will be Jan 25th, 2013.

3. WSC Legacy developments

3.1 Seabirds.net

04 Oct – GH reported that since the re-launch of the site just over 6 weeks ago, it has had over 1400 unique IP address hits. Additionally, the Facebook community is growing at a slow, steady pace. He is currently responding to individual calls for support/help. Phase 2 funding is now coming to an end. Work remaining to be completed under this phase includes:

- Setting up the discussion forum and mailing list
- Providing server/back-end access for GH by Axiom

He is currently developing a list of key activities for the next phase work, which currently may include:

- Internationalizing the website (i.e. making it available in 5-6 key languages)
- Improving existing features
- Set up online bibliography resource

Funding sources need to be secured before any of these new initiatives can move forward

11 Oct – CC commented on the value of having personal information available on the site

ACTION: 11 Oct – All WSU Reps to contact their respective members and invite them to create and/or update personal profiles on the Seabirds.net site under the People section.

3.2 Seabird colony databases (Monitoring and Register)

04 Oct - RK reported that improvements & modifications to the Seabird Info Network (SIN) is continuing. SIN is the element that links the Circumpolar & Global Colony Register databases. This work includes:

- Inputting colony data from Canada's Arctic region, Iceland, and data as provided by BirdLife International
- Caribbean data provided by WM
- Kittiwake data from the Circumpolar Seabird Group

As many of these databases include different data record fields, there is a concern about having too many data fields, thus the need to develop a set of core data fields that are common across all databases, while providing options for important, databases specific fields for separate data sets.

11 Oct – no further updates

ACTION: Oct 11 – JC to discuss with his Birdlife Team about how best to facilitate the transfer of data from their Marine IBA databases (both the data that has been accepted into their IBA databases and the data that was not appropriate to be included in the IBA databases.)

3.3 Seabird tracking databases

04 Oct – no updates

11 Oct – no updates

3.4 Seabird-at-sea databases

04 Oct – GH reported on behalf of RW who sent an email to let us know that BirdLife South Africa and partners have re-developed and re-launched an online database of at-sea survey data, available at www.saeonmarine.co.za/seabirds.

11 Oct – DI provided additional details from RW's email as follows: It is fully open-access. The protocol for data compatibility for this system is extremely flexible, and this could serve as a tool for others to house their data, or versions of their data, including at lower-resolution. In a few months time it is expected that the historical database containing some 20,000 records as far back as the 1960s will be uploaded to the site. We'd welcome the opportunity to include additional data (including archival data) as long as the policy of no restrictions on use is accepted.

ACTION: 11 Oct – GH to add links to www.saeonmarine.co.za/seabirds on relevant pages on seabirds.net.

ACTION: 11 Oct – DI to contact Stephan Garthe & Kathy Kuletz to get them on the call for updates

3.5 Indicators of performance, productivity and population status

04 Oct – GH referenced the need to develop and use a set of standard definitions. It was agreed that this should be circulated for review, acceptance and adoption.

ACTION: 04 Oct – RK to circulate a set of standard definitions for review and acceptance.

3.6 Mortality events

04 Oct – DI confirmed that Julia Parrish (COASST) has now accepted the offer to take on this project, however there is nothing to report at this meeting.

11 Oct – No updates

ACTION: 11 Oct – DI/KC to contact Julia Parrish to get the mortality event project moving forward

3.7 Other topics (e.g. habitat restoration, marine spatial planning)

04 Oct – No updates

11 Oct – CC raised the point that a database on banding and recovery should be developed. JC noted that in the past National initiatives were difficult to coordinate. KC metal ring databases generally tend to be managed by country, colour ring schemes are generally managed by individuals. It has taken Europe 8 years to create an acceptable and consistent colour ring schemes. CC clarified that his intention for this database would be the metal banding schemes. WM concerned about scope creep and suggested moving forward with new initiatives should be clearly developed before moving forward with such initiatives.

ACTION: CC to develop a profile/project definition of what this initiative could look like

4. Other matters

04 Oct – GH raised the idea of creating a "WSU News team" that would create current content for seabirds.net. This initiative would be modeled somewhat on the John Cooper blog and would involve anywhere from 7-10 volunteers from around the world, submitting short articles/blog posts for review and posting to seabirds.net. This "news reporting" would differ from such existing reports as PSG's regional report/bulletin in that the "News" team would focus on more current news, short (i.e. 1-2 paragraph articles that may report on a current story, current affairs or news item. The existing reports/bulletins tend to focus on stories and summaries related to the process and outcomes of research over a period of time (i.e. a year) and which are not considered "news". A specific News section on seabirds.net would be developed to accept and present this News and therefore all that is really required to launch the program would be a team of dedicated volunteers to "report" and post.

11 Oct – No updates

5. Next Conference Call

2013, Jan 10 – Atlantic Call

2013, Jan 17 – Pacific Call

6. Adjournment

04 Oct – DI adjourned the meeting at 00:58 GMT (Oct 06)

11 Oct – DI adjourned the meeting at 17:55 GMT