

Title: Legacy seabird monitoring data inventory, compilation, and standardization

Project Category: DST, SS, 7-Year Plan

Funding Requested: \$30,000 – Seasonal employee and CESU agreement with the University of Alaska Anchorage, Natural Heritage Program

Identify the Deliverable: Seabird population database populated with legacy data across Alaska Refuges

Briefly, describe the deliverable in the context of the SHC framework, focusing on how the deliverable will affect Conservation Delivery.

Population data on seabirds are essential for conservation of those species, and are widely used as indicators of change in marine ecosystems. Alaska Maritime, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof, Kodiak, Togiak, and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges have collected similar data on nesting seabird populations dating as far back as 1975. These data include a wide scope of monitoring surveys for a broad range of seabird species. Currently, the data are in disparate formats (electronic and paper) and multiple locations (local computers to filing cabinets). Standardized data across multiple entities is a key component for addressing landscape scale objectives.

The deliverable would include a recently developed seabird population monitoring database populated with legacy survey data collected on Alaska Refuges. Availability of these data in a standard format will allow testing of surrogate species relationships as well as facilitating population analysis across the north Pacific for correlation with environmental and other extrinsic variables. Such analyses can identify risk and mitigation factors for threats such as oil spills, invasive species, and climate change and associated changes to ocean environments.

Briefly, describe the deliverable in the context of the 7-Year Plan.

The fully populated regional seabird database will support the following goals and contribute to the following task of the 7-year plan:

Bird Inventory and Monitoring Goal: *Ensure that bird inventory and monitoring surveys on refuge lands are scientifically credible, evaluate refuge contributions to local, regional, landscape, flyway, and continental scale bird population objectives, and are coordinated across the landscape with other Service programs and our partners. The data will be used to assess the size, distribution, and status of bird populations and to gauge the success of management and conservation efforts.*

Coastal Marine Systems Goal: *Collect baseline ecological and environmental data to evaluate potential impacts of climate change and other stressors on wildlife and their habitats within coastal and marine systems.*

Surrogate Species Monitoring Task 1.5 *Beginning in FY15, where appropriate, the I&M Team, in collaboration with regional science teams, will assist with the studies to assess the effectiveness of the surrogate species approach.*

List Cooperators and Partners:

Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge (Susan Savage)
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (Robin Corcoran)
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (Michael Swaim)
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Kristine Sowl)
Inventory and Monitoring (Michael Cunanan)

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