**Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative Meeting**

**State of the Seabirds discussion**

**Date: December 1, 2022**

**Lead: Scott Johnston**

**Scott’s summary**

* US State of the Birds covers all birds across the US and highlights what needs to be done, concerns etc. But it is a large document and seabirds are a very small part of it.
* Idea is to put together a more targeted document (or documents) for purpose of outreach, but also ensure topics stay on agendas. Something like a 2 pager. Good graphs, pictures, little text. Not just showing threats, problems and declines but important to highlight what is being done that’s moving us in right direction and what else needs to be done.
* Having something in your “back pocket” that’s available immediately to directors etc when seabirds suddenly get put on their radar (example at tri-lateral meeting and director Martha Williams wanting to know more).
* Topics could include actions that help seabirds: eg 1) ACAP, 2) legislation for forage fish protection.
* Connect with other agencies (eg NOAA could be key partner in developing 2-pager).

**Request**

If anyone interested in helping or has comments about what is needed, who are audiences, reach out to Scott. Wide open to participation, no draft, no format, we are right at the start. Would include whole geographical range of AMBC – Canada to Gulf of Mexico.

**Comments**

* Good support for this. Those volunteering immediately: Deb Reynolds, Evan Adams, Sea McKeon, Linda Welch, Iain Stenhouse, Ruth Boettcher, Joan Walsh, Kate Williams, Yvan Stage, Valerie Sprinkel
* NB: There is background developed already for seabirds when group did section for State of the Birds, much of it wasn’t used. Could pull some stuff from that work.
* In MA, state-wide state of the birds, helps to sharpen internal focus, develop evidence to guide where resources are placed. Helps with public outreach and within state and helps to build comradery. NB: often difficult to narrow down bc lots!
* Also see GoMAMN guidelines https://gomamn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/chapter6-1.pdf
* Most effective way to communicate: less words, more pictures. Try not to overwhelm.
* Needs to have a good mixture of “oh wow” and “oh no”. Need to remember the “oh wow”,

remember how amazing seabirds are! The hook is “seabirds are superheroes”. Then there’s the “oh no” and then must have “what can we do about it”.

* Thoughts on audience: high level? Eg congressional. Doc could be tailored to individual needs. Eg – adapt a one-page about forage fish to provide to legislators.
* Wildlife agency directors – offshore/onshore. Help make case that work needs to be done at state level and broader scale level.
* Some states don’t understand relevance of seabirds. Should be mapping out impact of seabirds throughout the continent – eg link between seabirds and organic agriculture.
* Worth reaching out to PSG? Make this a national thing? Let’s start with Atlantic, come up with a draft and then reach out to west coast.

**Next steps/approach**

* Put together group and to start piecing together a draft. Will reach out in the new year.