

# 2017 Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative Meeting – Webinar November 7-8

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## **AUDIO:**

Conference line: 888-603-9623

Passcode: 52554



# Webinar Objectives



- (1) Review major outcomes and actions of 2016 AMBC meeting (New Bern, NC)
- (2) Discuss group progress since 2016 meeting
- (3) Follow up on uncompleted actions and move them forward by identifying next steps, leads, and timelines
- (4) Facilitate information sharing and new collaborations
- (5) Discuss ideas for 2018 meeting



# Review of Outcomes & Actions 2016 Meeting (North Carolina)



T. Jones

# (1) AMBC is valuable to its members & members willing to actively engage

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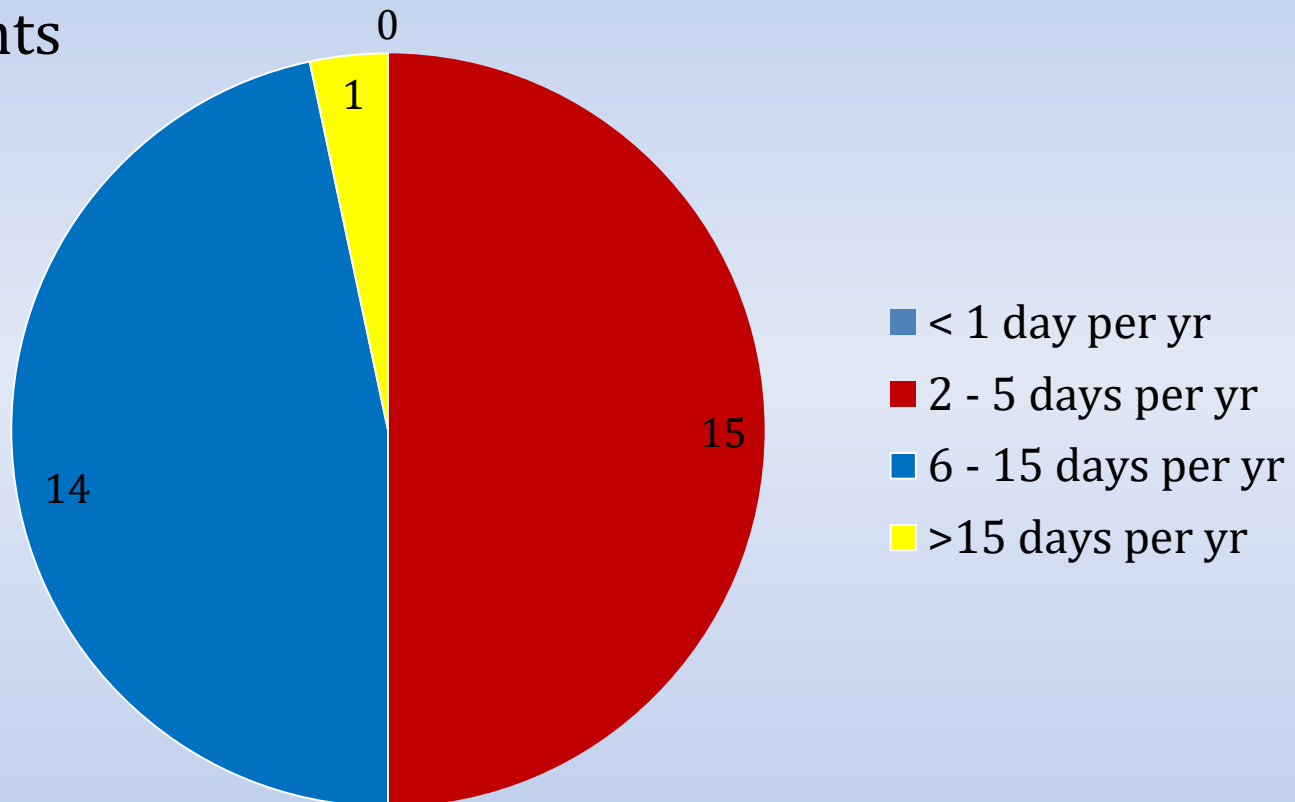
## **BENEFITS TO MEMBERS:**

- Awareness/coordination of marine bird projects
- Sharing of information on projects & priorities
- Identification of group research & management needs
- Identification of group spp. priorities (e.g., SWAP list)
- Development of conservation actions
- Identification & pursuit of funding opportunities
- Relationships developed and strengthened

# Value & engagement (cont.)

**Nearly 50% willing to devote 6-15d *outside* meetings**

30 respondents



# Value & engagement (cont.)



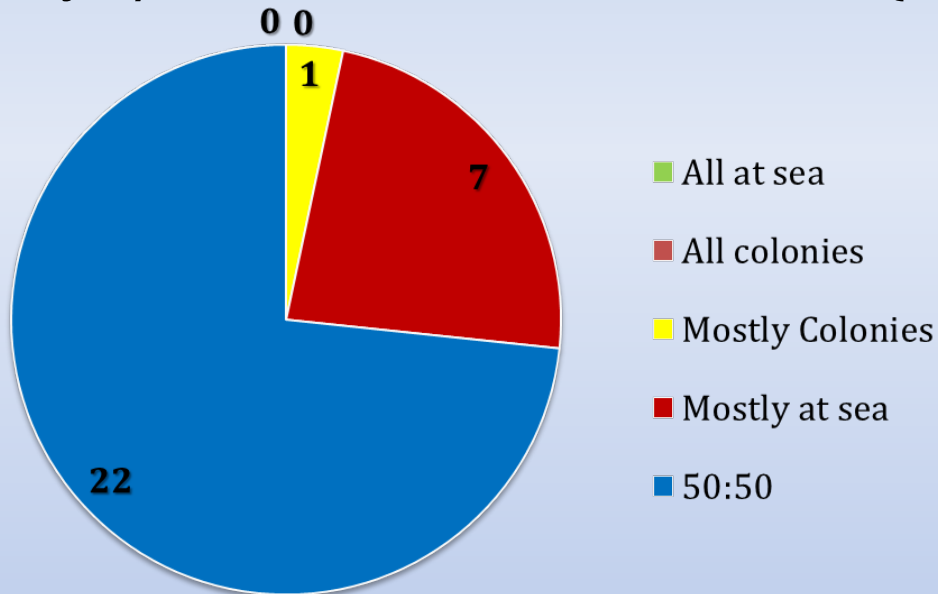
- **12 people: would take “active role” in developing/leading a formal structure**
- **16 people: volunteered for teams to develop/improve functioning of AMBC**

## (2) Expanded AMBC Scope - full lifecycle

Colony focus added to at-sea focus:

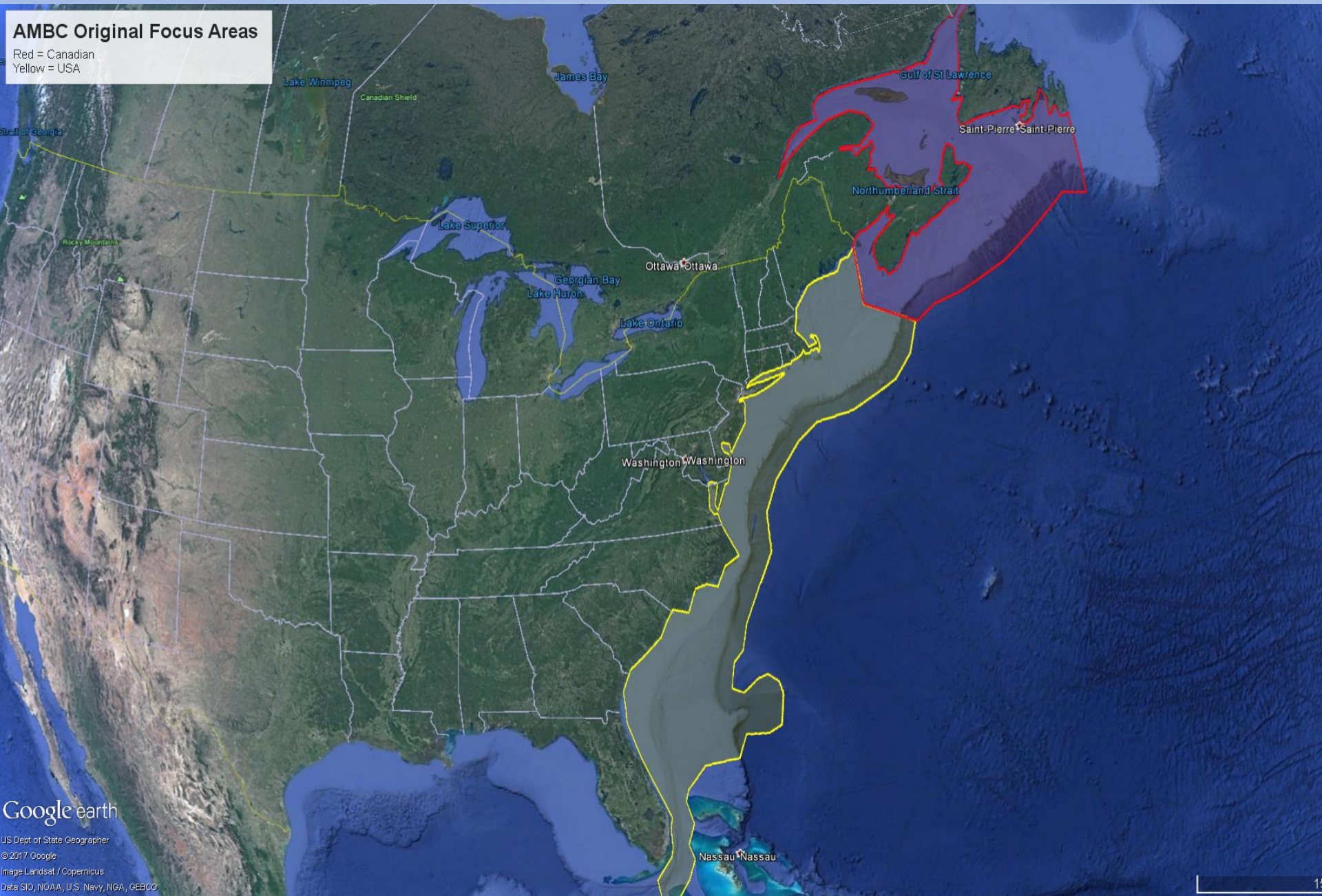
- full life cycle approach
- connections b/t colonies & at-sea

Nearly 3/4 said colonies & at-sea focus ( $n=30$ )





# Geographic Scope – original AMBC focal areas

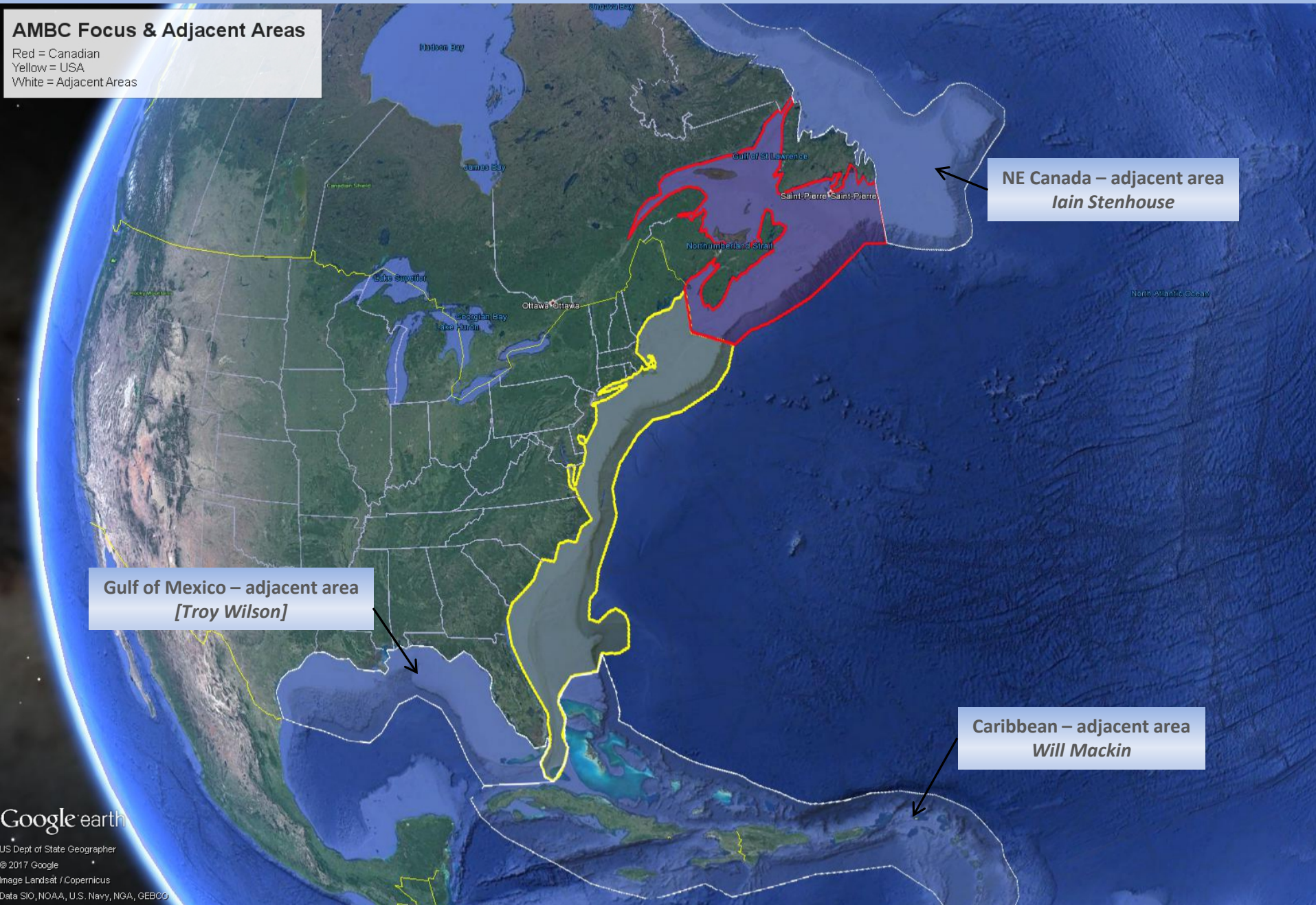




# Expanded Geographic Scope – adjacent areas

## AMBC Focus & Adjacent Areas

Red = Canadian  
Yellow = USA  
White = Adjacent Areas



### (3) Need to clearly convey AMBC purpose, history/accomplishments, & objectives

#### **USES:**

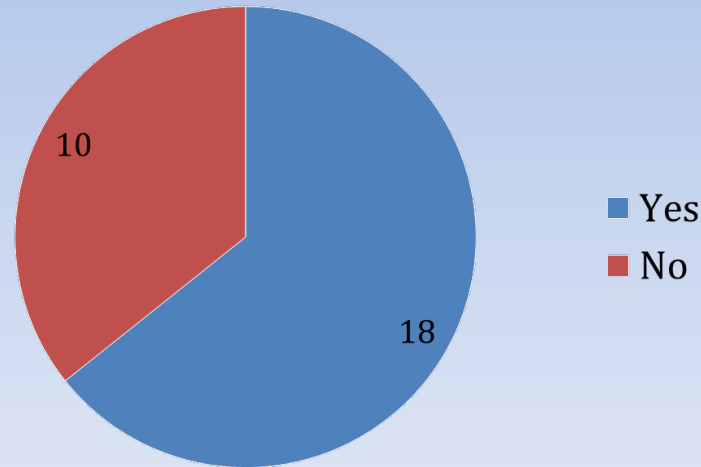
- Attracting new members & funding
- Informing group priorities
- Better group organization
- Identifying and tracking accomplishments/measuring group success
- Conveying group value to multiple audiences (including letting supervisors know it is worth the time)



**NEED:** Team to develop/propose key components:  
e.g., objectives, structure, formation/operation of working groups

## (4) Need for more group structure

Nearly 2/3 wanted more formal group structure ( $n=28$ )



### Ideas for structure discussed:

- Formal Society (e.g., Pacific Seabird Group - bylaws, officers, dues)
- Member-guided metaorganization (e.g., World Seabird Union)
- Informal (e.g., Gulf of Mex. Avian Monitoring Network - steering committee, coordinator, taxa working teams w/ leads)



# Group structure (cont.)



No decision finalized in NC, BUT....

*Less formal preferred* to more formal

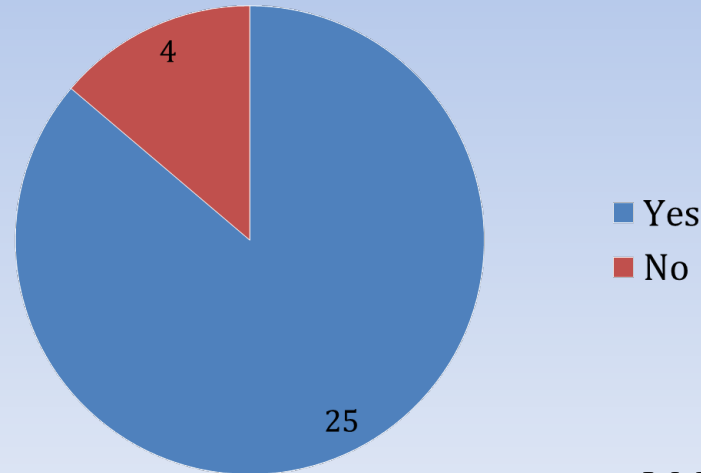
*Steering committee?*

- Could increase group coordination & ensure completion of follow-up activities outside meetings

**NEED:** Team to develop/propose roles & responsibilities

# (5a) Need to revitalize webpage

**86% thought that AMBC needs a website ( $n=29$ )**



## **PURPOSES:**

- Highlight accomplishments
- Raise group visibility
- Serve AMBC products & tools
- Communication within AMBC
- Justify engagement to funders, supervisors

## **AUDIENCES:**

- Public
- Professionals
- Managers/Funders
- Missing stakeholders
- AMBC



# (5b) Need to revitalize project updates

## Previous AMBC Updates used by members for:

- Outreach: New/existing partners, supervisors, managers, cross-organization, potential funders & Congress
- Updates: Knowing what other AMBC members are working on
- Making Contacts: Developing contacts w/specific stakeholders; showing power of partnerships & cooperation

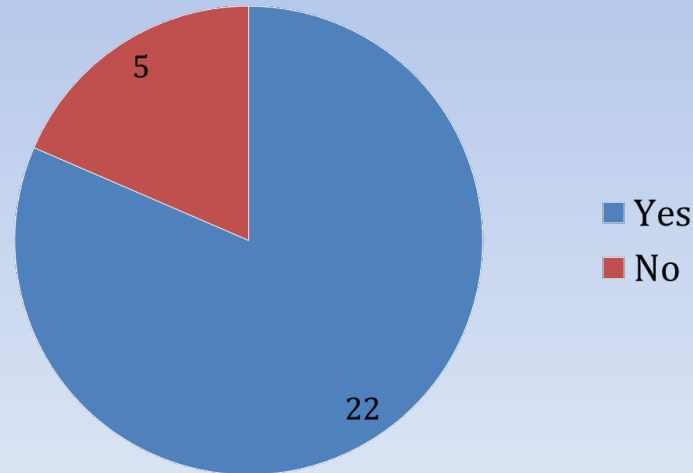
## Format?

- Simple spreadsheet vs. polished newsletter?
- Served on website &/or over listserve?
- Real time update vs. annual?



## (6) Support for working groups & proposed new group themes

82% thought AMBC time should be dedicated to working groups ( $n=27$ )



- Former & current working groups discussed
- New groups proposed (*brainstorm at 2016 meeting*)
- Caleb assembled into list circulated to group
- Developed a template - propose new groups or reinvigorate dormant ones; activities & information



# Advancing Key AMBC Priorities



P. Paton

# Section Overview & Goals

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- Provide preliminary input on organizational components:
  - Group Structure; Purpose Statement; History & Guidance Document; website, group updates/accomplishments; working groups
- Review draft materials:
  - Purpose statement; History & Guidance Document outline; prior, current & proposed working groups; working group template
- Identify underrepresented groups & discuss how to bring them in

**NEED:** Volunteers to commit to follow-up work  
WebEx Goal: develop list and timeframe to initiate

Want to **AVOID**: no meeting follow-up



*too many balls in the air?*

...Let's work *together* & have a plan



# Group Structure

- Steering Committee?

Proposed Responsibilities:

- 1) Help Coordinator - group organization & coordination
- 2) Review & finalize foundational documents
- 3) Develop processes - making group decisions
- 4) Assisting with working group coordination
- 5) Other ideas?

Process Needed?:

Determine who, how many, how long



**NEED:** Volunteers to flesh out responsibilities & process -- propose to the group. **By spring 2018?**

# Purpose Statement

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*The Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative is a collaboration of managers, scientists, and other professionals working towards conserving marine birds in the coastal and offshore ecosystems of Eastern North America. We apply scientific principles to identify and address research and management needs in an effort to promote the recovery and long-term viability of this unique avian community. We also partner with stakeholders to minimize threats to critical coastal and marine habitats on which marine birds depend.*

**NEED:** Suggestions, questions, concerns from group

# History & Guidance Document Outline

- REVIEW outline section by section (*in supplemental materials*)
- Provide suggestions, questions, concerns
- A team will use outline, & info from this WebEx, 2016 meeting, + other historical documents\* to draft document ( $\leq 5$  pp.)



**NEED:** Volunteers to form drafting team. Caleb will set up first call in next 2-3 mo. Final draft doc by 2018 meeting.

# Website Development



## PROGRESS:

- USFWS funds committed
- Work w/ Outreach Specialist, Deb Reynolds (USFWS)
- Web developer identified - provided list of considerations

Content Ideas: Purpose statement; History & Guidance document/Objectives; Project updates; Listserve sign-up; Members list; AMBC products/tools; storage of informal group docs?; Others?

Design: Begin looking at other websites

**NEED:** Small # volunteers to form website team. **Caleb will set up first call w/ Deb within next 2-3 mo.**

# Project Update Reporting

- **FORMAT?**

- Spreadsheet – rolling updates
- Polished document w/photos?
- Map based (e.g., AFSI)

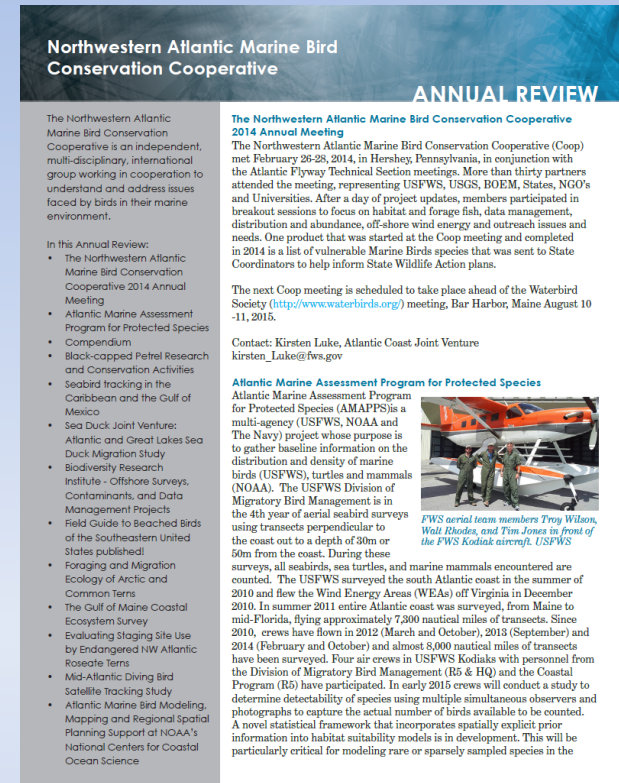
- **HOW CIRCULATED?**

- Served on website
  - Sent over listserve
- } Both?

- **FREQUENCY?**

- Real time vs. annual

**NEED:** Small # volunteers to help Caleb w/ request for updates & processing



Cover page, 2014 AMBC update



# Current & Former Working Groups

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- **Distribution & Abundance** (several subgroups, each w/leads) - *ACTIVE?*  
- *convert into MSP Group? - catch-all (inform energy developmt, etc.)*
- **Tracking** (leads: Pat Jodice, Rob Ronconi, Linda Welch, others?) - *ACTIVE\**
- **Fisheries Bycatch** (lead: Caleb Spiegel) - *ACTIVE*
- **Seabird Colonies & Adjacent Waters** (lead: Ruth Boettcher) - *ACTIVE*
- **Forage Fish** *unofficial group* (lead: Linda Welch) - *ACTIVE*
- **Oil Spill** (leads: John Schmerfeld, others?) - *INACTIVE*
- **Data Management** (leads: Tim Jones, others?) - *INACTIVE\**
- **Disease** (leads: ?) - *INACTIVE*
- **Habitat** - *INACTIVE*

# Proposed Working Groups

- **Data Collection & Analysis Synthesis for Offshore Energy/Marine Spatial Planning**

- Synthesis of survey & tracking data - common analytical &/or decisionmaking framework
- Coordination of methods for pre- and post-construction studies to estimate exposure
- Development of guidelines for offshore wind development
- Continued study of flight altitudes and weather on flight behavior & collision risk
- An “offshore wind energy group” proposed 2014, but did not meet again

- **Critical Areas & Connectivity\***

- Identify critical areas used by birds across the annual cycle, & what drives use
- Better understand linkages among use areas (breeding, staging, molting, wintering)
- Identify multi-species aggregation areas (e.g., molting, post-breeding dispersal)

- **Effects of Climate Change\***

- **Marine Debris**

- Including influence of plastics, ghost gear, etc

- **Contaminants**

- Including collection of baseline data

- **Citizen Science?** – Anne-Marie proposed

\*Should these be incorporated into existing groups?

# Working Group Template

Name of Group:

Leads:

Other Members: *[This can be filled in as interest is gauged]*

Geographic Scope:

Potential Partner Organizations:

Long-term Goals/Activities (next 3-5 years): *Provide up to 10*

Short-term Goals/Activities (next 6 months): *Provide up to 5*

Link to Management: *[How will this activity be used to inform management decisions? What are the target management audiences?]*

Link to AMBC: *[How will this Working Group engage with AMBC (e.g.s., Participation in meetings? Links to other Working Groups?)]*

Funding Resources (Existing & Needed ): *[Can be a best guess, but should be thought about at the onset so the group knows whether it will need to focus some effort on finding funding]*

**Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative  
Working Group Proposal Template**



# Working Groups Questions/Next Steps

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## Process Questions:

- How are working groups developed/proposed/accepted?
- Is template a good start?
- Limit # of working groups?
- How do they interact w/ AMBC?
- Role of Steering Committee?

## Next Steps?:

- Input on process/template
- Lead(s) initiate new group or reinvigorate old one
- Formalize Forage Fish group: template, coordination meeting → attract more members & new ideas

# Engaging Underrepresented Groups

## 2016 meeting discussion

Some important groups underrepresented:

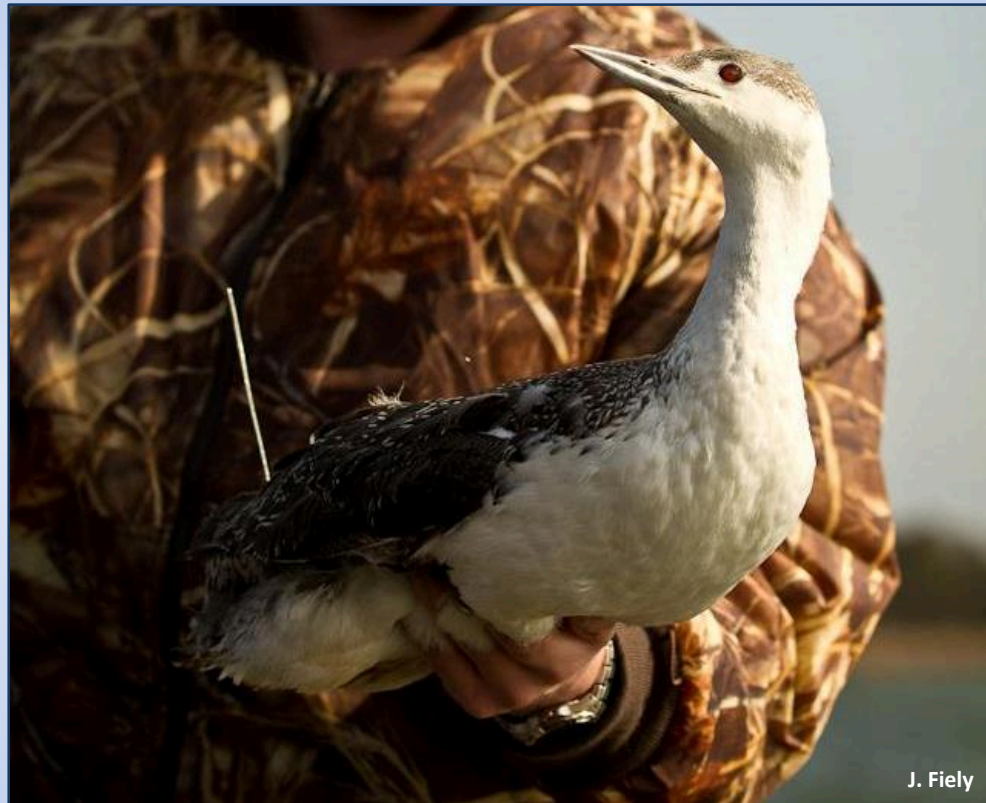
- Fisheries managers & scientists
- Commercial industry
- NGOs
- Funders (managers, foundations, etc.)
- *Others*

**NEED:** Brainstorm *specific* audiences, organizations to better engage; How to attract to AMBC?





# Project Updates



J. Fiely

# At-Sea Surveys

## **Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Seabird Distribution and Abundance on the AOCS**

**Contacts:** Arliss J. Winship<sup>1,2,\*</sup> and John Christensen<sup>1</sup>

## **SeaScribe – a *free* mobile avian survey data collection app**

**Contacts:** Iain Stenhouse, Biodiversity Research Institute, ([iain.stenhouse@briloon.org](mailto:iain.stenhouse@briloon.org))

Andrew Gilbert, Biodiversity Research Institute, ([andrew.gilbert@briloon.org](mailto:andrew.gilbert@briloon.org))

## **2016 & 2017 AMAPPS Shipboard Surveys – Seabirds**

**Contact:** Dr. Debi Palka, [Debra.Palka@noaa.gov](mailto:Debra.Palka@noaa.gov)

## **Comprehensive estimates of seabird-fishery interactions for the U.S. Northeast and mid-Atlantic**

**Contact:** Dr. Debi Palka, [Debra.Palka@noaa.gov](mailto:Debra.Palka@noaa.gov)

## **Update on regional ocean planning in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic**

**Contacts:** Emily Shumchenia [emily.shumchenia@gmail.com](mailto:emily.shumchenia@gmail.com)

Nick Napoli [nicknapoli01@gmail.com](mailto:nicknapoli01@gmail.com)

## **Pelagic Seabird Surveys in Atlantic Canada**

**Contact:** Carina Gjerdrum, [carina.gjerdrum@canada.ca](mailto:carina.gjerdrum@canada.ca)

## **Additional Statistical Analyses to Support Guidelines for Marine Avian Sampling**

**Contacts:** Jeffery Leirness (NOAA/NOS/NCCOS) [jeffery.leirness@noaa.gov](mailto:jeffery.leirness@noaa.gov)

David Bigger (BOEM)

Mary Boatman (BOEM)

## **The Northwest Atlantic Seabird Catalog**

**Contact:** Kaycee Coleman, USFWS, [kaycee\\_coleman@fws.gov](mailto:kaycee_coleman@fws.gov)

# Colony Management & Monitoring

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## **Seabird Monitoring Efforts at Machias Seal Island, New Brunswick**

**Contact:** Tony Diamond, [Tonydiamond49@gmail.com](mailto:Tonydiamond49@gmail.com)

## **Stable Isotope and Fecal DNA Analysis of Seabird Blood and Feces to Document Foraging Behavior and Diet Composition**

**Contact:** Linda Welch, USFWS, [Linda\\_Welch@fws.gov](mailto:Linda_Welch@fws.gov)

## **Stable Isotope Analysis of Atlantic Puffin, Common, Arctic, and Roseate Tern Eggshells**

**Contact:** Michelle D. Staudinger, DOI Northeast Climate Science Center [mstaudinger@usgs.gov](mailto:mstaudinger@usgs.gov)

## **Common Eider Duckling Survival Study**

**Contacts:** Lucas Savoy Biodiversity Research Institute, [Lucas.Savoy@BRIlloon.org](mailto:Lucas.Savoy@BRIlloon.org)  
Chris Dwyer, USFWS, [Chris-Dwyer@fws.gov](mailto:Chris-Dwyer@fws.gov)

## **Monitoring Black-backed and Herring Gulls on Appledore Island (NH)**

**Contact:** Sarah Courchesne [scourchesne@necc.mass.edu](mailto:scourchesne@necc.mass.edu)

## **Roseate Tern Metapopulation Project: 2017 Report**

**Contact:** Dr. Jeff Spendelow, USGS-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, [JSpendelow@usgs.gov](mailto:JSpendelow@usgs.gov)

## **Bird Island Restoration Efforts (MA)**

**Contact:** Carolyn Mostello, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries Wildlife, [Carolyn.Mostello@state.ma.us](mailto:Carolyn.Mostello@state.ma.us)

## **Seabird and Shorebird Monitoring and Management Efforts in South Carolina**

**Contacts:** Felicia Sanders, [SandersF@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:SandersF@dnr.sc.gov)  
Janet Thibault, [ThibaultJ@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:ThibaultJ@dnr.sc.gov)  
Mary-Catherine Martin, [MartinMC@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:MartinMC@dnr.sc.gov)

# Seabird Tracking Studies

## **Tracking Common Terns with Satellite Tags (Petit Manan Island, ME)**

**Contacts:** Pam Loring, USFWS Region 5, Migratory Bird Program [Pamela\\_Loring@fws.gov](mailto:Pamela_Loring@fws.gov)  
Linda Welch, USFWS Maine Coastal islands NWR, [Linda\\_Welch@fws.gov](mailto:Linda_Welch@fws.gov)

## **Update on Digital VHF Telemetry Studies of Common and Roseate Terns, Piping Plovers, and Red Knots**

**Contacts:** Pam Loring USFWS, [pamela\\_loring@fws.gov](mailto:pamela_loring@fws.gov), Holly Goyert UMass Amherst, [hgoiert@umass.edu](mailto:hgoiert@umass.edu), and Peter Paton URI, [ppaton@uri.edu](mailto:ppaton@uri.edu)

## **Tracking Movements and Foraging Habits of Great Shearwater**

**Contacts:** Dave Wiley, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, [David.Wiley@noaa.gov](mailto:David.Wiley@noaa.gov)  
Kevin Powers, [kdpowers24@gmail.com](mailto:kdpowers24@gmail.com)  
Linda Welch, USFWS, [Linda\\_Welch@fws.gov](mailto:Linda_Welch@fws.gov)

## **Assessing movements of nanotagged birds near the Block Island Wind Farm: A validation study**

**Contacts:** Peter Paton, Department of Natural Resources Science, University of Rhode Island, Kingston RI 02881 [ppaton@uri.edu](mailto:ppaton@uri.edu)  
Pamela Loring, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Division of Migratory Birds, 300 Westgate Dr., Hadley MA 01035  
James Miller and Gopu Potty, Department of Ocean Engineering, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett, RI 02882  
Ramakrishna Janaswamy, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 0100

## **Distribution, abundance, and habitat associations of wintering sea ducks in Rhode Island**

**Contact:** Jay Osenkowski, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management [Jay.Osenkowski@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Jay.Osenkowski@dem.ri.gov)

## **Experience the migration of Brown Pelicans of the Chesapeake Bay**

**Contact:** Autumn-Lynn, Migratory Connectivity Project, Migratory Bird Center  
Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, National Zoological Park ([HarrisonAL@si.edu](mailto:HarrisonAL@si.edu))

## **Determining Fine-scale Use and Movement Patterns of Diving Bird Species in Federal Waters of the Mid-Atlantic U.S. Using Satellite Telemetry**

**Contact:** Caleb Spiegel, [caleb\\_spiegel@fws.gov](mailto:caleb_spiegel@fws.gov)

# Bycatch and Disease Monitoring

## **Narrowing the Focus of the Wellfleet Bay Virus Investigation: Annual Movement Patterns of Satellite-Marked Common Eiders Breeding in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts, USA**

**Contacts:** Lucas Savoy Biodiversity Research Institute, [Lucas.Savoy@BRIlloon.org](mailto:Lucas.Savoy@BRIlloon.org)  
Chris Dwyer, USFWS, [Chris-Dwyer@fws.gov](mailto:Chris-Dwyer@fws.gov)

## **Determining the Source Population of Common Eiders Impacted by Wellfleet Bay Virus Using Mitochondrial DNA**

**Contacts:** Lucas Savoy Biodiversity Research Institute, [Lucas.Savoy@BRIlloon.org](mailto:Lucas.Savoy@BRIlloon.org)  
Chris Dwyer, USFWS, [Chris-Dwyer@fws.gov](mailto:Chris-Dwyer@fws.gov)

## **Memorial University of Newfoundland Bycatch Research Program (2016 -2017)**

**Contact:** Bill Montevecchi, Memorial University, [mont@mun.ca](mailto:mont@mun.ca)

## **Seabird Bycatch Projects - U.S. Atlantic Pelagic Longline: Virginia Tech & NOAA NMFS, SE Fisheries Science Center (2017-2018)**

**Contacts:** Joan Browder, SE Fisheries Science Center, [joan.browder@noaa.gov](mailto:joan.browder@noaa.gov)  
Yan Jiao & Can Zhou, Virginia Tech, [yjiao@vt.edu](mailto:yjiao@vt.edu), [can.zhou@vt.edu](mailto:can.zhou@vt.edu)

## **The Seabird Ecological Assessment Network (SEANET)**

**Contact:** John Stanton, [john\\_stanton@fws.gov](mailto:john_stanton@fws.gov)

# Forage Fish & Miscellaneous

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## **Trends in the Diet of Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns in Maine: Influences of Climate Change**

**Contact:** Michelle D. Staudinger, DOI Northeast Climate Science Center, [mstaudinger@usgs.gov](mailto:mstaudinger@usgs.gov)

## **Workshop on the Ecological Role of Sand Lance**

**Contacts:** Linda Welch, Maine Coastal Islands NWR, [Linda\\_Welch@fws.gov](mailto:Linda_Welch@fws.gov)

Dave Wiley, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, [David.Wiley@noaa.gov](mailto:David.Wiley@noaa.gov)

## **Book on Common Loons under Development**

**Contact:** Paul R. Spitzer, PhD Cornell 1980, 31672 Old Orchard Rd., Trappe, MD 21673, [spitzer\\_paul@hotmail.com](mailto:spitzer_paul@hotmail.com)



# 2018 & 2019 AMBC Meeting Logistics



- Where?
- Follow-ups from this meeting?
- Project presentations? If so, longer meeting?

# Wrap Up

- ANYTHING WE MISSED?
- PRESSING/LINGERING QUESTIONS?
- Reiterate volunteers & next steps

