

Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative - Web Ex (Nov 7-8, 2017) - NOTES:

Part 1 of 2: Note taker - Susi VonOettingen

WebEx 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

- **Participants:** Alicia Berlin, Amanda Dookie, Andrew Gilbert, Anne-Marie Runfola, Arliss Winship, Bill Montevercchi, Bob Houston, Caleb Speigel, Can Zhou, Carina Gjerdrum, Carolyn Mostello, Cynthia Pekarik, Dave Brinker, Dean Demarest, Earvin Balderama, Hannah Nevins, Holly Goyert, Iain Stenhouse, Jeff Shenot, Jeffery Leirness, Jeffrey Spendelow, Joan Browder, Julie Bourque, Kate laquinto, Kate Williams, Katherine Parsons, Kaycee Coleman, Kevin Powers, Kim Peters, Linda Welch, Lucas Savoy, Martina Kadin, Mary Cody, Michelle Staudinger, Pam Loring, Paul Sievert, Paul Spitzer, Paula Shannon, Peter Hong, Rob Fowler, Ruth Boettcher, Sara Schweitzer, Scott Johnston, Susi vonOettingen, Stephen Kress, Timothy White, Walker Golder

Tuesday, November 7

Objectives

- (1) Review major outcomes and actions of 2016 AMBC meeting (New Bern, NC);
- (2) Discuss progress taken place 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

Introductions of WebEx planning team: Ruth Boettcher, Holly Goyert, Linda Welch, Kaycee Coleman, Susi vonOettingen, Rob Fowler, Scott Johnston, Pam Loring

**Review Agenda –
Summary/Review of Major Outcomes & Actions from 2016 [Caleb]**

Background:

- Group formed in 2005: recommendation of MANEM Waterbird Plan committee, formed because marine birds were poorly understood compared to other waterbirds. Small and active group in the beginning. Have working groups, share the work. 8 meetings = Working group breakouts – prioritize conservation issues, develop research, write funding proposals. Caleb became coordinator facilitate and coordinate AMBC meetings.

- Accomplishments: NW Atlantic Seabird Catalog; Fisheries Bycatch Reduction Business Plan; Surveying, tracking, modelling research → offshore energy development; Oil spill damage assessment & mapping; State Wildlife Action Planning
- 2016 meeting = Sep 20-21, New Bern, NC, focused on planning. This meeting is a follow-up with sharing updates and addressing unfinished business from NC meeting. Had 30 participants; Caleb sent a pre-meeting questionnaire (30 responses). Questions ranged from history of participation to opinion on group's future and focus. NC meeting was dedicated to 1) reviewing history & accomplishments AND 2) defining future directions of the group -- evaluating purpose, scope, group structure, & objectives.
- **Reaffirmed value of AMBC to it's members & willingness to actively engage** - Question posed: Is AMBC worth continuing? Meeting participants and questionnaires gave a resounding YES.
 - Benefits: Awareness/coordination of projects; info sharing - projects & priorities; Id research & mgmt needs; i.d. spp priorities, develop restoration actions; ID funding opportunities; relationships
 - 50% would devote 6-15d *outside* of meetings to AMBC activities [Fig 5]
 - 12 said they would be willing to take an "active role" [Fig 6b]
- People volunteered time to work on specific tasks -- refer to "Meeting volunteers lists" circulated - p. 5 of 'supplemental materials'

Expanded scope & geography

- AMBC originally focused on at-sea only because much less knowledge for that group -- 2016: group decided to expand to include colonies & connection between colonies & at-sea, now including the entire **life cycle**
- Geographic scope = originally US from east coast of FL to Maine, and Canada to southern Newfoundland; but at the NC 2016 meeting, discussion focused on life stages outside of the original geographic scope and now includes adjacent areas that support populations found in the original focus areas (e.g., BLSK = Gulf of Mexico). Added Gulf of Mexico, NE Canada and the Caribbean. AMBC needs a liason for the Gulf of Mexico. Note do not have a concrete vision of what these folks would do. *Bill volunteers to be the representative for NE Canada.*
- List of priority species developed in 2014 for State Wildlife Action Plans to help inform state wildlife action plan implementation.

Need for a purpose statement and guidance document to convey who we are & what we do, history and major prior accomplishments, and short & long term objectives

- Will help attract new members, convey to superiors & others that the AMBC is worth the time and funds, setting additional priorities, enhance group organization, identify and track accomplishments, measuring success
- Some materials developed: draft purpose statement, History & Guidance Document Outline...
- Need team to develop & propose key components (i.e. Objectives, Structure, formation and operation of working groups, etc.)
- Need timeline to initiate work

Need for a group structure to better facilitate AMBC activities and meetings (e.g., steering committee, formalized working groups, etc.), and reviewed different options:

- 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)

No final decision made, but seemed that meeting participants preferred a option that was spelled out, but not necessarily as formal as bylaws/board/dues

Maybe a Steering Committee -- Need for increased group coordination b/t meetings, better documentation of group discussions, development of actionable items, & ensured completion of follow-up activities outside meetings

--- If so, need for team to finalize roles/responsibilities, and structure/operation (e.g., # of people, how get on, how long serve?) --- We'll talk more about this later this afternoon.

Supported efforts to revitalize/redevelop webpage & updates

Strong support for a website from meeting and questionnaire participants.

Purposes:

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

Audiences: multiple, but appeal to general audience as well, Caleb has begun working with Outreach Specialist (Deb Reynolds, USFWS) to begin the process of designing and figuring out how to host one. Some people volunteered to help develop the website content/style (p. 5 of "supplemental materials" – but, we need more volunteers!)

Revitalize Project Updates

Last update was 2015. The Update was a good synopsis of what the AMBC was doing. Used by many members for outreach to a variety of audiences. Helped to develop contacts with specific stakeholders, demonstrated the power of partnerships and cooperation.

Discussion at NC meeting was how to do the Update:

- simple spreadsheet kept updated in real time?
- Polished document?
- Hosted on a website?
- Sent over listserve?

Website team can work on this – contact Caleb if you're interested.

New Working Groups and Reengagement of Old Working Groups Discussion (2016 Mtg)

- AMBC meeting time should be devoted to working group breakout
- Discussion of former (no longer active) and current working groups and associated activities

- New groups proposed -- brainstorming session late in meeting; some already existed, or are best incorporated into other groups
- Caleb developed list of former, current, and proposed - see p.2-3 supplemental material.
- Template - developed just after 2016 meeting for proposing new working groups and reinvigorating dormant ones (also included in supplemental materials).
- Helps groups focus goals/actions and communicate purpose to other AMBC members info
- Used by new working group: Seabird Colonies and Adjacent Waters

Progress Since 2016 Meeting - New Working Groups

Seabird Colonies & Adjacent Waters Working Group update (Ruth Boettcher)

Encourage Provinces and States to work together to collect data in a consistent manner to facilitate management decisions across a broader area. Broadened to include “adjacent waters” based on the importance to understand the forage base for the colonies. Hope to encourage forage fish research by members.

Monitor, manage and conserve seabird breeding colonies using consistent and science based approaches. Not sure how far to the northern and southern reaches to extend geographic area (needs to be decided). Have 5 regional subgroups: GOM, Lower Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Gulf Coast. Each subgroup has a leader and co-leader, will operate independently on matters unique to their region, but will contribute to the mission of the entire SCAW working group and the AMBC.

2 steering committee members will represent the SCAW working group at the annual AMBC meetings.

Focal species: BLSK, LETE, COTE, DCCO, LAGU. May change over time as the working group grows and adapts to changing mgmt. needs. Each subgroup may select their own focal species. Serve as long-term seabird indicator species, streamline conservation planning and implementation, serve as a response measure for seabirds undergoing lethal control measures (just a sample).

All 5 species occur in all regions (not necessarily breeding in every region), are species of greatest conservation concern, and/or are listed in 4 or more states, LAGU and DCCO represent species that undergo some lethal control, all 5 spp. Serve as good indicators of the quality of habitat and mgmt. needs.

SCAW-WG

Proposed Long-term Goals

- Standardize breeding monitoring metrics for multiple seabird species comparable within/among Atlantic and Gulf coast regions
- Compile all historical data from prior surveys and compile/review existing info from literature and reports
- Coordinate and facilitate seabird breeding data storage, sharing and analyses
- Facilitate development and implementation of coordinated seabird colony mgmt measures (by region).
- Provide accurate coastal No. American and regional seabird breeding population estimates for status assessment, mgmt and research purposes
- Facilitate linking seabird population trends to fisheries data and mgmt, and other sources of prey base info.

- Facilitate linking breeding seabird pop. trends to nearshore staging and migration habitats, and to offshore seabird abundance and dbn.
- Develop coastal No. American and regional research and monitoring objectives that meet the needs of states, provinces and the AMBC.

Proposed Short-term Goals:

- Obtain info from states and provinces
 - Breeding monitoring metrics/methods/guidance documents
 - Existing seabird breeding data and future data needs
 - Key threats affecting seabird breeding success
 - Existing mgmt, conservation, outreach efforts
- Assess existing breeding data, identify data gaps, develop next steps for filling gaps
- Develop regional seabird breeding survey plans
- Promote the coordination and implementation of working group seabird surveys

What has happened since May 2016 –

- Science Support Partnership Proposal – hope to hear soon if funded
 - Evaluate and update contents of USGS – managed colonial waterbird database
 - Provide guidance on 2018 and future coordinated breeding surveys
 - Evaluate, revise and improve CWBD user access, data security and quality, meta-data content and quality and data entry and viewing formats
 - Update the revise CWBD with 2018 breeding survey data provided by project partners.
- Avian Community Science Bioinformatics – smaller project, also not funded
 - Using data harmonization to integrate community science data
 - Empower bird conservation partners to assess large-scale bird population health
- 2017 Atlantic Flyway Council Waterbirds Sub-committee recommendations:
 - Support and participate 2018 Atlantic Flyway CWS for species of conservation and mgmt priority
 - Establish periodic surveys
 - ??
- Immediate Steps
 - Regional sub-groups increase memberships
 - Regional sub-groups need to develop regionally –specific short and long term goals
 - Regional sub-groups develop focal species lists
 - Form a SCAW data mgmt committee
 - Form a 2018 breeding survey coordination committee

H.Goyert created maps with seabird colony data and overlapped with forage fish data. SCAW-WG has been coordinating with Forage Fish Working Group (FF-WG).

Forage Fish Working Group (Linda Welch)

A more informal group, not as formal as the SCAW-WG.

- AMBC members have been coordinating with NOAA and the New England Fisheries Management Council to incorporate seabirds into management decisions
- Developing an Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule for Herring Mgmt. Plan

- NOAA modeled tern productivity under harvest levels
- Several AMBC members attended Herring Planning Team mtg. to discuss various models
- Provided background and life history information on seabirds for Herring Amendment, previously this info never considered in fisheries mgmt plans.

Update –

- Herring Committee will meet 11/21 to address localized depletion and user conflicts in the fishery
- NEMFC meeting in Dec. to select preferred alternative
- Public hearings to be set in March 2018
- Will select proposed action during June mtg.

Great opportunity for this community to provide input!

Other Issues

- AMBC members participated in sand mining conference calls, looking at ecology and productivity of sand habitats (Sand lance habitat!)
- Will look at abundance and dbn of sand lance
- Menhaden harvest comment period closed Oct. 20. Unknown who provided comments addressing importance of menhaden for seabirds
- NEMFC may update herring/shad white papers,

Workshop: Understanding the Ecological Role of Sand Lance in the Northeast (May 2017)

- 55 managers, researchers, policy makers, NGOs
- Focus on sand lance life history and role in west Atlantic food web
- Ecology and Importance of sandeels (e.g. sand lance) in the UK – loss of seabirds as a result of over fishery in the UK
- Discussion focused on:
 - Biology and life history
 - Feeding ecology and Behavior
 - Habitat, DBN and Pop. dynamics
 - Forage Role
- Species/Taxa specific talks on Sand Lance
 - Primary productivity and trophic interactions
 - Sandeels and seabirds in the UK
 - Forage fish mgmt in the NE and Mid-Atlantic regions
 - Sandeel Conservation in the UK
- Goal to educate managers in sandeel conservation by presenting research and mgmt occurring elsewhere.
- USFWS interest in sand lance should be increased because of ongoing jurisdictional interest, laws and policies including:
 - Seabird restoration and mgmt on Nat'l Wildlife Refuges
 - ESA (prey for listed species- FWS and NMFS)
 - Fisheries Mgmt (Important prey species)
 - Species of Greatest Conservation Need (state partners)
 - Migratory Bird Program and AMBC – USFWS already invested in seabirds, missing the link to prey species.
- Currently no directed commercial harvest of sand lance in the northeast. Get ahead before the fishery is exploited and there is gear and effort invested in the species (becomes an economic issue).
- Draft manuscript – The role of sand lance in the Northwest Atlantic Ecosystem: A synthesis of current knowledge with implications for conservation and management

- Key audiences – wind energy developers, sand mining developers, Fisheries Mgmt Councils,
- Important for relevant federal, state and local effort
- Overview of ammodytes (genus for sand lance)
- Why the need for the review?
- Goals of the paper
- 2 species – life history, dbn and pop. trends, basic bio and life history, feeding ecology and behavior, habitat,
- The role of sand lance in the food web, focusing on taxa in the NW Atlantic – seabirds, mammals, fish and squid, understanding as part of a larger guild
- Talking about NW Atlantic in a coupled human and natural systems context (CHANS)
 - Current Drivers of change to sand lance in the NW Atlantic – pollution, climate change, offshore development, directed fisheries, the role of sand lance in ecosystem based management.
- Seabird Working Group – working on importance of sand lance to seabirds leading this effort.
- Role and importance of SL as prey, what are the conservation implications of species of special concern among these groups-ROST one of the focal species.
- Biggest gaps in knowledge – need to ID
- What data and information sources are available to bridge the gaps identified above?
- Can knowledge about SL in other systems inform our understanding and generate hypotheses?
- How do sand lance compare to other prey species from a nutritional perspective?
- How do sand lance species compare to other prey species in terms of availability over time and space.
- ID'd 14 different bird species that feed on sand lance in the NW Atlantic (look at list, if you know of others, let Linda know). Looking at a large literature base to get these species.

Discussion: Cape Cod is considering herring mgmt buffer zones off of Cape Cod. HG provided data from the ROST tracking project that demonstrate that ROST forage 45 km or more. Would support a 25 nautical mile buffer.

Failure of sand lance at Stellwagon Banks, ROSTs moved away from Cape Cod, moved to forage around Block Island. Shearwaters were underweight, large scale shearwater die-off, photos of thousands of shearwaters near and on the shoreline. Thousands of dead and dying menhaden coming ashore. Caleb will circulate a paper on the bycatch. Sand lance on Stellwagon is an eruptive existence – really good and bad years. Where great shearwaters go reflects this boom/bust population. The menhaden were being driven by mackerel ashore, no anoxic conditions. That was providing the bait for the shearwaters.

Bycatch of shearwaters this year has been significant, baited gill nets. Collected hundreds to thousand shearwaters, conducting necropsies now.

Advancing Key AMBC Priority Actions [facilitated group discussion]

Chance to provide preliminary input/discuss major **organizational components** that were identified as important to the group (Group Structure, Purpose Statement, History & Guidance Document, and support structures - Website, group updates/accomplishments, and working groups)

-- Review some draft materials - Purpose statement, guidance doc. outline, working groups, working group template

-- Also want to identify underrepresented groups to target for engagement, and brainstorm ways to bring them in

Request = people to commit to working on and leading:

- Drafting History & Guidance Document (finalizing Purpose statement)
- Proposed group structure (steering committee, etc.)
- Providing content, design input for webpage & process for annual project updates to be shared on webpage
- Process for formation of new working groups, and their interaction w/ larger AMBC group

...AND identify next steps/timeline to get process underway

Lots of Activities & Actions i.d.ed at 2016 meeting: lots of progress in some working groups, but less follow-up on major organizational components. -- Caleb can help facilitate, but can't get everything underway

Steering Committee? Potential roles & responsibilities.

Proposed Responsibilities:

- Help Coordinator w/ group organization & coordination (annual meeting, conference calls, operational committees);
- Review & finalize foundational documents (e.g., History & Guidance Doc);
- Develop processes for making group decisions;
- Assist with working group coordination: Reviewing proposed groups, checking in on group progress, ensuring collaboration across groups, helping make sure that work is applied -- meets manager & funding needs

Need a process for deciding who (volunteering/electing) and for how long

Conversation: - Steering Comm. would spread out the tasks and responsibilities from Caleb's shoulders, would improve the ability to implement the AMBC goals. Would help in coordination. More structure and people who participate would increase success of AMBC's mission/goals. BUT, if this is not part of someone's job, need to keep a focus on the priorities with Caleb overseeing the working groups to help facilitate their jobs.

One suggestion – Would be helpful to have a committed group of people to go to for assistance in managing the AMBC. Need to figure out who would be willing and able to take this on, how long. Use the WNS model of ad hoc participation. Develop material/outreach to describe the urgency of the AMBC to garner the support of upper level mgmt. Need to prioritize this within the FWS and States.

Need to be really clear in what is asked of upper level mgmt. Advocate and communicate mission, accomplishments, where we need to go is important – but know what it is we're asking. Staff time? Funding? Support for grants?

Waterbirds and seabirds – issues that resonate with biologists may not all resonate with upper level mgmt. Offshore seabird dieoff due to bicatch may not align with directors. Need to find out what resonates with directors.

WHO: Proposed = 1-2 members from each working group & Caleb (coordinator)

NEED - volunteers for a preliminary ad hoc inaugural steering committee committee to work w/ Caleb - flesh out details & propose to the group -- will put in place structure for future operation -- By spring 2018 -- could incorporate into History & Guidance doc

History & Guidance Document - Review draft “purpose statement”*. Discuss outline of proposed components*. Group to commit to leading this effort? Process? Timeline?

PURPOSE STATEMENT (Caleb and Holly Goyert):

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.

Discussion – addressing uncertainty, climate? One way to help be as direct as possible is to have the purpose focus on the WHAT, and talk about the HOW as the operating principal. Keep the WHO we are.

Have a smaller group finalize the Purpose and send out to the group for informal acceptance?

OUTLINE (Holly and Caleb): See supplemental Info.
Need Goals and Objectives, review species list priority species of concern.

Open to multiple stakeholders (agencies, NGOs, academia, industry),

Themes: full life cycle approach (e.g. at sea and at colonies), ecosystem services, ecosystem-based management, applied science, climate change/adaptation/resilience (Climate Smart), dynamic management areas/spatiotemporal planning

Geographic Scope - Western No. America & overlap with adjacent areas (Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and N. Canada).

Group Goals:

- Facilitate partnerships & collaboration
- ID priority issues (threats, species, etc.) & how to carry them out
- Share results of research & conservation activities (include writing review papers/white papers)
- Procure funding
- Citizen Science/Outreach
- Advocacy – comment letters (See SCAW WG)
- Submit other ideas to Holly

Audience

- Managers
- Scientists
- Funders
- General Public
- Industry
- Youth (future birders/environmentalists)
- Policy makers/upper level mgmt
- Political proponents

Structure and Operations – small work group to flesh out?

- Group coordination: Coordinator, Steering Comm., support structures (website, accomplishments reporting) representation at World Seabird Union
- Annual meetings
- Working Groups
- Funding?
- Annual conditions report on key indicator species.

Review short and long-term goals from presentation. Could be set at the working group level.

- Short-term (next 2-3 years -- could include internal: e.g., “form 5 active Working Groups”, and external: “assist in synthesizing existing data on offshore bird patterns into offshore wind guidelines for post-construction monitoring”)

Long-term (next 10 years -- broader & aspirational: e.g., “by 2025 priority marine bird population status, distribution, and habitat use patterns in the northwest Atlantic are understood well enough to inform marine resource policies and regulations”) Could the AMBC become a non-profit organization? List out pros and cons?

- Include success metrics where possible
- Proposed objectives will have to be fleshed out by Guidance Document leads, with input from the larger group

- Need list of volunteers - start w/ list from 2016 meeting

- Proposed timeline = Caleb set up call w/in next 2 - 3 months; final draft document by 2018 meeting

Discussion: Put together a table of accomplishments, base on updates provided. Added to outline.

Re-affirmed/add new volunteers: Alicia Berlin, Ruth Boettcher, Holly Goyert, Pam Loring, Yvan Satge, Caleb Spiegel, John Stanton, Linda Welch, Kathy Parsons, Iain Stenhouse.

Others to ask: Pat Jodice, Dick Veit, Tim White

Wednesday, November 08, 2017

- **Participants:** Alicia Berlin, Andrew Gilbert, Anne-Marie Runfola, Arliss Winship, Bill Montevercchi, Bob Houston, Caleb Speigel, Can Zhou, Carina Gjerdrum, Carolyn Mostello, Cynthia Pekarik, Dave Brinker, Dean Demarest, Earvin Balderama, Hannah Nevins, Holly Goyert, Iain Stenhouse, **Jeff Shenot**, Jeffery Leirness, Jeffrey Spendelow, Joan Browder, Julie Bourque, Kate Iaquinto, Kate Williams, Katherine Parsons, Kaycee Coleman, Kevin Powers, Kim Peters, Linda Welch, Lucas Savoy, **Martina Kadin**, Mary Cody, Michelle Staudinger, Pam Loring, Paul Sievert, Paul Spitzer, Paula Shannon, Peter Hong, Rob Fowler, Ruth Boettcher, Sara Schweitzer, Scott Johnston, Stephen Kress, Timothy White, Walker Golder

Web page & group updates/accomplishments - Progress to date. Group to lead this effort? Process? Timeline?

Progress:

- USFWS has funds for webpage design and hosting on non-FWS site (e.g., AFSI)
- Caleb -- started work w/ Outreach Specialist Deb Reynolds & identified webex designer
- Provided list of considerations for design & content
- **Looking for a small core of volunteers to help design the website. Caleb will set up first call within the next 2 to 3 months. (Volunteers so far - John Stanton, Andrew Gilbert, Walker Golder (can help with images to match content and layout), Iain Stenhouse (will help on elements on design), Sarah S. and Randy D. input from their experience doing this for PIF)**

Send Caleb an email if you think you can help.

Discussion - Talk with and engage Bob Ford (PIF coordinator) b/c PIF just finished a new web site design and overhaul. He'll have a lot of good insights and suggestions.

CONTENT IDEAS:

- Purpose Statement
- History & Guidance Doc outlining the short & long-term objectives of the AMBC
- Project updates (need process for regular updates)
- Sign-up for AMBC listserv
- List of group members
- Products & tools (or links to)
- Sharing informal info (notes, to do lists, files, working group docs, etc.) among group members -- Deb recommends against this b/c gets cluttered - unwieldy to public (like old website) - what does group think? *Suggest using websites that are password protected to host working documents, to do lists, etc. Basecamp, Sharepoint are examples of sites that could be used. Caleb will coordinate with Deb R. for possible sites for informal, working documents.*
- Other ideas?

Design: look at other websites for ideas.

Discussion - Talk with and engage Bob Ford (Partners In Flight coordinator) b/c PIF just finished a new web site design and overhaul. He'll have a lot of good insights and suggestions.

Suggest collecting feedback from group – might be small teams or the entire AMBC members. Small teams could ID the sharing utility that could be different from the larger group. Poll members for thoughts.

Suggestion that Basecamp might be useful – can split into smaller groups . Federal governments (Canada) have security restrictions for some sites (e.g. Basecamp).

Project Update Reporting

Potential formats:

- Simple spreadsheet updated in real time (rolling updates)
- Polished document w/photos
- Map based (e.g., AFSI)

Discussion – send out request for reports at same time every year, request photos or pertinent figures. Suggestion that this be a more simplified than previous years' format. Simple updates (like Linda pulled together for this meeting) most useful right now for sharing information among AMBC members. Produce a more formal product if needed. Focus on getting updates on website as well.

History – spruced up list of projects to garner interest with agencies to join the AMBC. Might not be needed if website can function in place of the document.

How to circulate and frequency:

- Served on website
- Sent over listserv
- Both on website and listserv
- Real time vs. annual publication

NEED: Small number of volunteers to help Caleb w/ request for updates & processing

Advancing Key AMBC Priority Actions (continued)

Working groups – *Objective of this session* Review list of past present, and proposed working groups*; Discuss process for formation of new groups, better defining objectives of new groups, etc. (consider new working groups template*)

Discussion: Look at supplemental materials under working groups for working group specific information – see page 2. Recommend that subgroups or groups need to be more organized and ID what they are doing- need to ID objectives. Conservation is a broad topic and would fit under many groups instead of singling it out as a primary objective for one group. Forced to lump because it's impossible to have many working groups. Need to understand how groups overlap – Tracking and DBN and Abundance were separate, but DBN and Abundance is informed by tracking work so make sure that there's coordination (or members overlap).

If a new group is suggested – 1) need a person to commit to the leadership role and 2) identify what the objective is.

Discussion: Functionally how do the working groups step down from the purpose statement: "working towards conserving marine birds", "management needs in an effort to promote the recovery and long-term viability", "minimize threats to habitats" etc. How is the development and prioritization of working groups a reflection of our purpose?

Current & Former Working Groups: (Inactive)

- Distribution and Abundance (several subgroups, each with leads)

Discussion – convert into a marine species abundance group. Look at the larger system. Seems to be a catch all group. This workgroup was focused on collecting info from surveys originally. Developed to help inform energy development. This is a part of the Seabird Colonies and Adjacent Waters WG.

- Tracking (leads: Pat Jodice, Rob Ronconi, Linda Welch, others?)
- Fisheries Bycatch (lead: Caleb Speigel)
- Seabird Colonies and Adjacent Waters
- Forage Fish (unofficial lead: Linda Welch)
- Oil Spill
- Data Management
- Disease
- Habitat

[SLIDE 2] Proposed Working Groups

-- Brainstorming session - 2016 meeting

-- some proposed that already existed; some suggestions overlapped and were merged

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*]

Discussion – Template demonstrates potential sustainability of the working group, the purpose of the WG, think about the WG that would be active for a long period of or focused on a single project and is disbanded after project is completed. Focus on goals and activities. Look at Forage Fish example – after project (White Paper) is completed, there's still more work to be done or projects that could be identified.

Or WGs could form task force to address finite projects.

Proposed Working Group Template

- developed just after 2016 meeting for proposing new working groups and reinvigorating dormant ones
- helps groups focus goals/actions and communicate purpose to other AMBC members info
- used by new working group: SCAW
- Shows links to the purpose of the AMBC (see discussion question above)

Working Groups

- Data collection & analysis synthesis for offshore energy/marine spatial planning
- Critical areas and connectivity – could fit into Forage Fish or Abundance and Distribution

- Effects of Climate Change – could apply to other WGs
- Marine Debris – needs a lead, doesn't fit into any other category
- Contaminants – needs a lead, doesn't fit into any other category
- Citizens Science – (new suggestion)
- Off-shore wind Guidelines (could fit under Distribution and Abundance).

REVISED WG – Combine Distribution and Abundance and Tracking WGs into Marine Spatial Planning with Holly G. as lead. Brainstorm some projects as short term objectives. Holly G. willing to draft a template for the marine spatial planning WG. Arliss will help out. Reach out to Tim White and Dick Veit, and others on Distribution and Abundance list (see supplemental document). Alicia Berlin also volunteered. Data management, surveys, tracking methodology – can all fall under the larger WG of Marine Spatial Planning.

PROCESS QUESTIONS - still need to be worked out

- How do working groups get developed/proposed/accepted?
- Is template a good start?
Discussion – yes, good place to start. Suggest Linda W. takes a shot at drafting the template for the Forage Fish WG. Send to the wider group for review. Limit # of working groups? Otherwise spread too thin.
- How do WGs interact w/ AMBC?

Discussion: Don't limit working groups at this point, some will come and go depending on need, and they just need to have an active leader, a purpose that makes sense to tackle through AMBC, and report on activities to the group.

Discussion: Kathy Parsons is interested in co-leading a status assessment and threats analysis effort; anticipating drawing from resources already available in literature etc. Is this something already in hand for the cooperative. Does new PIF database accomplish this? If nothing foundational like this exists for AMBC, will fill out a template. Feel this is key for fundraising etc. Would love partners in this. Look at Nisbet's 2013 Marine birds of the Eastern United States and the Bay of Fundy : distribution, numbers, trends, threats, and management. Some data at least 10 years old. Could tier off of this?

Discussion: The ACAD (Avian Conservation Assessment Database) includes all bird species. The ACAD was spearheaded by PIF, but many people associated with non-landbird groups are involved. Ken Rosenberg is probably the best contact for ACAD. Alaine Camfield is the Canadian contact for ACAD, Alaine.Camfield@canada.ca.

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS:

Leads step up to either kick off a new group or reinvigorate an old one

Use template? Submit to Caleb &/or ad hoc steering committee?

Forage Fish Group - fill out template and hold coordination meeting -- attract more partners

Role of Steering Committee?

- reviewing proposed groups;
- checking in on group progress;
- ensuring collaboration across groups;
- helping make sure that work is applied -- meets manager & funding needs

Engaging with underrepresented groups (e.g., fisheries, industry, funders) - Identify main targets; brainstorm ways to increase participation

- Underrepresented groups mentioned:
- Fisheries managers & scientists
- Commercial industry
- NGOs
- Funders (managers, foundations, etc.)
- Others

Need to develop a more specific list, and brainstorm strategies for engaging, will be helped by putting in place better organizational components

Project-level Update: Informal topic-based Q & A, and idea-sharing. 31 projects submitted!

[group discussion, facilitated by Linda & Caleb]

*Refer to 2017 AMBC projects summary**

AMAPPS Aerial Surveys update – USFWS is contracting with BOEM. Completed surveys in August, one next year late summer or early fall, another in 2019.

Stable Isotopes study – collected hatched egg shells (a day or two after hatching) from as many spp. as possible. Gives info on pre-breeding diet of females (a week or so prior to laying eggs). Worked very well. Have nice carbon to nitrogen ratios, pure protein. Generally, across islands at COTE, a lot of overlap in carbon sources, broader range of habitats than Arctic terns and ROST. Similar trophic levels as puffins. Arctic terns lower trophic levels, may have a more focused diet. May see some differences in carbon signals between years.

Suggestion that Jeff Spendelow's work be placed in a different category (staging work). No systematic effort to locate field readable bands in wintering grounds, although photos are posted on WikiAves.

Additional report (didn't make it into the report): Kate Iaquinto, Monomoy NWR: had about a 1200 pair increase in nesting COTE on Monomoy NWR for a total of 11,723 pairs. We also saw increases in nesting LAGU but we performed nest destruction this year. ROST were also up but were late nesting this year. 1 pair BLSK successfully nested on the island and fledged chicks for the first time since 2011. Will add this to project list. Send new projects to Caleb to add to updated list.

Question to the group – Do we want to look at pre-breeding diets on a large scale? Could expand potential collection of eggshells outside of GOM for a broader survey of diets. Good protocol established. Get a hatch date and species ID. Easy to collect and store material. Ruth B., Carolyn M. also interested in collecting samples.

Tracking COTE with Satellite Tags Satellite tagged COTE went to Puerto Rico (all 5), similar to Nisbet/Mostello's info on geolocator data on COTEs. One stayed on north tip when Hurricane Maria came through. One transmitter died in RI area. Males and females tagged. Females were first to migrate south. All terns staged in the Cape Cod area. Difference in migration strategies between 2 sexes. Roseate terns will be tagged in 2018. May deploy additional satellite transmitters on ROST at Great Gull Island. Collaborating with Ken Minor with Avian Conservation and Research to help apply tags. VHS data (nanotagged birds)

seems like Napatree Point (RI) has a large roosting area as well as Bean Point on Block Island (RI). Not sure if these are overnight roosts, need more data analysis.

The “Diving Bird” study has been released by BOEM (is on their website). Caleb will provide link.

Rate of bycatch for shearwaters was unusually high this year and other species. Has there been a long-term look at high incidences of bycatch of shearwaters – looking at condition of the birds. Are undernourished birds attracted to boats? Increasing chance of bycatch? This year, 1 to 2 inch menhaden attracting shearwaters. Lots of shearwaters feeding, but there was an unusually high incidence of dead shearwaters – seemingly malnourished. Something goin on, but not known what is its, is beyond food availability.

2018 & 2019 Meeting Logistics

• Discuss ideas for 2018 meeting venue.

Note: Waterbirds meeting is being held in Vancouver, BC with the International Ornithological Congress meeting -- are AMBC members planning on attending?

- Where to have it? - Offering Woods Hole as a meeting location.
- Generally about 30 people participate at these meetings. Usually 25 to 40 people participate.
- If combining it with a technical meeting – e.g. Atlantic Flyway Meeting. Could get more state folks to participate. Need to find out when the next Flyway Meeting will be held. Folks who normally wouldn’t go to a AMBC meeting might attend.
- Location issues – needs to be close to an airport, needs meeting space.
- Caleb will send out a questionnaire to check the possibility of meeting in person vs a webex for 2018.
- Send Caleb emails if you know of another email that the AMBC could piggyback on.

Include follow-ups from this meeting –

- Finalizing AMBC Organizational Components
- Present History and Guidance document

Project presentations?

- If so, longer meeting - 2 to 3 full days, like previous meetings?

• 2019 meeting:

Suggest holding in conjunction w/ Waterbirds, being held in Maryland. Interested in combining the AMBC meeting with this meeting.

How to engage with under-represented groups: fishery managers, NGOs, commercial industry,

- Especially with wide ranging topics/issues like forage fish that covers many interest groups – e.g. Forage Fish.
- Reach out to state/federal congressionals – engage staff. Let folks know what we’re doing?
 - First let them know who we are and what our issues are. Invite to come to a portion of a meeting? Let them know what our priorities and concerns are.
- Form an outreach WG?
- Seaducks Joint Venture – some overlap with AMBC people,
- Increase diversity, perhaps function of an outreach WG?
- Increase international participation?

Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative - Web Ex (Nov 8, 2017) - NOTES:

Part 2 of 2: Note Taker - Kaycee Coleman

Forage Fish and Miscellaneous (only the last 2 min. for notes here)

- No mortality from osprey feeding on menhaden due to contaminants?

2018 & 2019 meeting for AMBC logistics

- 2018 Waterbirds in conjunction with IOC (international ornithological conference, August 19-26, 2018) will be in BC-> doesn't seem like anyone on the call will be attending
- 2019 Waterbirds will be in MD, Caleb hopes to do a in person meeting at this conference
- Caleb expressed interest in doing an in person meeting in 2018 and 2019 for working groups and presentations
- past meetings in person attendance has been around 30-40 people (roughly about the same as webex?)
- Anne-Marie suggested an in person meeting at WHOI - Linda said this has happened in the past and had poor attendance
- Linda suggested combining with a state meeting or the Atlantic Flyway meeting, incorporate more state folks -> Ruth will find out where the next one will be held
- Caleb suggested the Chesapeake Bay Field Office in Annapolis for a stand-alone meeting, but there are concerns about funding issues and attendance
- Caleb will send out a google form to see how people feel about another webex in 2018 vs. in person (probably in March 2018). Caleb is also looking for more feedback on how the webex went via email.
- Feedback on the call was that the webex worked fairly well and better than expected

How to engage with underrepresented groups

- desire to get a better mix of people and ideas and funders involved
- Groups that are underrepresented include: fishers managers and scientists, commercial industry, NGOs, funders (managers, foundations, etc.), and others.
- brainstorming how to engage them
- Political representatives and the staffers (Anne-Marie needs permission every time they want to talk to someone in office - desire for a better pipeline). Desire to let them know who we are and what our concerns are. Suggested inviting them to come to a portion of the meeting or to speak at the meeting. Hope is to see if there are any joint concerns we can act on.
- Seaduck Joint Venture -> Lucas and Alicia are on the call. Caleb also involved in JV. Atlantic and Great Lake telemetry project came out of this overlap. Seaduck JV might be disbanded in the next year due to funding; collaborations in the future are unknown.
- NGOs: ABC (present on this call - Sara), Audubon
- engage with underrepresented groups might be a good project for an outreach working group
- Ducks Unlimited -> not sure about overlap, might need investigation. Shorebird groups are starting to work with DU on international efforts so there might be overlap. Very active in habitat preservation and acquisition.
- clear message is important for engagement
- industry as a funding source should be encouraged, funding should be considered when thinking of objectives
- ASMFC
- Outreach WG could also focus on inclusion: Young birders, minorities, disabled folks, undergrads, NOAA NOS mentoring
- Increased engagement with international partners, world seabird union

- Increase integration with nation groups, the pacific seabird group and national union groups

Closing notes

- Holly – suggested emailing about the working groups so that people can email leaders directly (especially for the new groups -> but probably good for all groups)