

NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE



NMFS Seabird Workshop

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Why Seabirds are of interest to NMFS

(see Meehan et al)

- 1. Intrinsic value (ok- a stretch for NMFS)*
- 2. Legal mandates (MBTA, ESA, etc) to mitigate bycatch*
- 3. Indicators of ecosystem function*
- 4. Indicators of climate change*

Perhaps the most cost-effective, ecosystem integrating taxa available to the research community



YES, VIRGINIA,
THERE IS
GLOBAL WARMING!

NORTH POLE

KEENINGS
© 2002
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Leo Murray video

- <http://vimeo.com/1709110>





Introductions: Workshop Steering Committee

- 1. Lee Benaka, SF, Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program coordinator*
- 2. Shannon Fitzgerald, AFSC*
- 3. Nicole LeBoeuf, IA*
- 4. Richard Merrick, NEFSC*
- 5. Kim Rivera, AKR/ National Seabird Program Coordinator, Workshop Organizer*



In my opinion:

NMFS, FWS, USGS, MMS, NSF, States, NGOs need to put **\$3 million a year for five years** into designing seabird studies that are integrated with fish and marine mammal studies for the purpose of testing/verifying models used to predict impacts of climate change.

(I'll say this again during my talk! This should be an agency priority! Cost - \$500K per Region – separate from bycatch mitigation)