



SEABIRD WORKSHOP !!!

BUILDING A NATIONAL PLAN FOR
NOAA FISHERIES
TO IMPROVE THE STATE OF
KNOWLEDGE AND
REDUCE FISHERIES IMPACTS ON
SEABIRDS

September 9-11, 2009
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Seattle, WA





WORKSHOP ...

- ✓ **WHY** do we need it?
- ✓ **WHAT** are we going to do?
- ✓ **HOW** are we going to do it?

WORKSHOP ...

✓ WHY do we need it?

A seagull is captured in flight, its wings spread wide, against a backdrop of a vast, shimmering blue ocean and a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The horizon line is clearly visible, separating the water from the sky.



- To meet our seabird responsibilities in a consistent manner
- NMFS seabird contacts in regions, centers, headquarter offices --- never in same place at same time!
- Resources...budget...\$\$\$\$



NOAA Fisheries Service & Seabirds...

Our Responsibilities

- ✓ Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act (**seabirds in recent reauthorization!**)
- ✓ Endangered Species Act
- ✓ National Environmental Policy Act
- ✓ U.S. National Plan of Action on Seabird Bycatch in Longline Fisheries
- ✓ FAO's Best Practice Technical Guidelines
- ✓ NMFS's Strategic Plan...& for Fisheries Research
- ✓ NOAA Fisheries National Bycatch Strategy & Report
- ✓ Executive Order 13186: Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds
- ✓ USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern



NOAA Fisheries Service & Seabirds...

Our Responsibilities

- ✓ **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act**
- ✓ Bycatch definition...
- ✓ Section 316, Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP) & Coordination on Seabird Interactions
- ✓ Section 303b12, FMPs may include measures to conserve non-target species
- ✓ **NOAA Fisheries National Bycatch Strategy**

ESA Seabird Specieswhich are they?

Albatross, Amsterdam –E—Foreign

Albatross, short-tailed –E—R7

Booby, Abbott's –E—Foreign

Cahow –E—Foreign ?

Eider, Spectacled –T—R7

Eider, Steller's –T—R7

Frigatebird, Andrew's –E—Foreign

Grebe, Alaotra –E—Foreign

Grebe, Atitlan –E—Foreign

Gull, Audouin's –E—Foreign

Gull, relict –E—Foreign

Murrelet, marbled –T—R1

Pelican, brown –E—R8

Petrel, Hawaiian dark-rumped—E—R1

Petrel, Mascarene black –E—Foreign

Shearwater, Newell's Townsend's—T—R1

Tern, California least –E—R8

Tern, least –E—R3

Tern, roseate –E—R5

Penguin, Galapagos –E—Foreign

Petrel, Madeira ??



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US NPOA Action Elements

I. Seabird Bycatch Assessment

II. Data Collection and Improved Reporting

III. Prescription of Mitigation Measures

IV. Research and Development of Mitigation Measures and Techniques

V. Outreach, Education, and Training About Seabird Bycatch

VI. Reporting

VII. Collaboration between NOAA Fisheries and USFWS on Seabird Issues



FAO Best Practice Technical Guidelines are:

- Extend the IPOA–Seabirds to other relevant fishing gear including trawls and gillnets
- Uptake of seabird measures by RFMO/As
- Defining an incidental catch problem
- Mitigation measures and related standards
- Mitigation research
- Education, training and outreach
- Observer programme
- Seabird incidental catch reduction objectives
- Monitoring and reporting framework for NPOA–Seabirds and regional plans
- Periodic performance review



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WORKSHOP ...

WHAT are we going to do?

i.e. what are our objectives?

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Initiate the development of a seabird implementation plan at both the national and regional levels that can be used to:

- ✓ describe and provide insights regarding NMFS seabird activities and important partnerships with management entities including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,*
- ✓ guide NMFS management and science, and*
- ✓ provide input to the NMFS long-term planning and budget process.*



WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES, con't

- ✓ *NMFS seabird contacts meet each other & USFWS & USGS staff*
- ✓ *Becoming informed about NMFS regional seabird activities*
- ✓ *'Strategic thinking' --Identify regional and national seabird priorities and resource gaps*
- ✓ *Address how to implement MSRA Section 316 requirements, regionally and nationally*
- ✓ *Develop seabird-related performance measures*

WORKSHOP ...

HOW are we going to do it?



AGENDA

Day 1 – Plenary.....'everyone up to speed!'

Morning

Opening Remarks “NOAA Fisheries and Seabirds: The Importance of these Feathered Oceanographers to NOAA”
George Hunt

Pre-workshop Questionnaire Summary, Nicole LeBoeuf

How to Get Seabirds from the Twilight Zone to PPBES,
Gordon Waring

PPBES for the National Seabird Program, Philip Hoffman

Day 1 – Plenary.....'everyone up to speed!'

Afternoon

Thematic Presentations...logical sequencing....basis for Days 2 & 3 Group Work

Pelagic seabird abundance and distribution and overlap with fisheries (George Hunt)

Anthropogenic impacts (e.g. bycatch/entanglement) and Mitigation (Kim Dietrich, consultant)

Management and Coordination in/among Agencies and Stakeholders on Shared Objectives: An Alaska Case Study (Greg Balogh, Kim Trust—USFWS; Shannon Fitzgerald, Kristin Mabry, Kim Rivera—NMFS; Bill Wilson—North Pacific Fishery Management Council)

Ecosystem Approach to Management—Seabirds as Indicators of Marine Health (Doug DeMaster)

Priorities and Opportunities for Marine Bird and Forage Fish Research in the North Pacific (John Piatt, USGS)

International Aspects of the NMFS Seabird Program (Nicole LeBoeuf)



Dinner!



6:30pm



Hungry Appetite!





Days 2 & 3

Seabird Abundance

Gordon

Bycatch

Lee

Management

KimR

Ecosystem

Shannon



Day 2, a.m.---Regional focus

Activity! Fun!

Q1: Thinking strategically, what would a regional strategy look like....in the near-term, in the long-term

Q2: For the group's top strategies, how will you know when you've accomplished this strategy?



Day 2, p.m.---Regional focus

Q3: What new research, data, etc do you need to implement this strategy?

Q4: What new skills etc do you need to implement this strategy?

Q5: What changes in policy, mgt, coordination etc may be needed to implement this new strategy?



Day 3, a.m.---National focus

Q6: How can the regional strategies be supported nationally, and what would that national strategy look like---in the near-term, in the long-term?

Q7: And how will you know when you've accomplished this national strategy?

Day 3, p.m.

Reactions.....to regional strategies, to national strategies

Next Steps Panel....where to from here? How will the workshop products be used?

Mission Accomplished!



Questions?



Special thanks to---Steering Committee—Lee Benaka, Shannon Fitzgerald, Nicole LeBoeuf, Richard Merrick; Speakers—George Hunt, Gordon Waring, Philip Hoffman, Kim Dietrich, Greg Balogh, Kim Trust, Kristin Mabry, Bill Wilson, Thorn Smith, Doug Demaster, John Piatt ; Facilitator—Philip Heller, and Others!—Gina Shield, Ed Melvin, Rhonda McMichael