Pacific Seabird Group
43rd Annual Meeting
Turtle Bay, HI
10-13 February 2016

Special Paper Sessions:

SPS1: Move them or lure them: Translocation and social attraction in seabird conservation
Type of session: Special Paper Session; Open
Session coordinator and affiliation: Lindsay Young, Pacific Rim Conservation and Eric VanderWerf, Pacific Rim Conservation
Contact: Lindsay Young - lindsay@pacificrimconservation.com

Translocation and social attraction are being increasingly used as tools to manage seabirds and help restore ecosystem function. Particularly with the recent development of large scale pest eradication and exclusion techniques, pest- free islands and fenced sanctuaries are being evaluated for their potential to serve as seabird breeding sites. However, due to the strong natal philopatry many seabirds exhibit, natural colonization of these newly restored sites by seabirds may occur slowly or not at all. To increase the colonization rate, managers have developed a variety of passive and active seabird restoration techniques. Social attraction relies on passive methods including broadcast of acoustic signals such as courtship calls and visual signals such as decoys. Translocation is a more active approach that involves physically moving chicks or eggs, hand-rearing them at a new site, and relying on their inherent natal philopatry to ensure their return at the desired location. This session will present several case studies involving a variety of taxa from projects using both types of techniques from around the Pacific to facilitate information exchange across regions.

SPS2: Restoring Nesting Habitat for Seabirds
Type of session: Special Paper Session; Open
Session coordinators and affiliations: Jennifer Boyce, NOAA/Montrose Settlements Restoration Program and Scott Hall**,** National Fish and Wildlife Federation
Contact: Jennifer Boyce - jennifer.boyce@noaa.gov

Invasive plants on islands have had major detrimental impacts on seabird populations across the Pacific. This special paper session will present a wide variety of projects that have employed novel techniques to remove invasive plants and restore seabird habitats by revegetating seabird habitat with native plants. Papers will include case studies from the Channel Islands (Santa Barbara Island and Scorpion Rock) and Año Nuevo Island in California, Hawaiian Islands (Palmyra and Midway Atolls), Chilean Islands (Juan Fernández), and others. Talks will present various methods and lessons learned from the habitat restoration projects that be used as models for projects to follow when embarking on future habitat projects. The session will conclude with a roundtable group discussion where meeting attendees can discuss in more depth lessons learned and strategies for a comprehensive approach to habitat restoration for seabirds.

SPS3: Seabirds in Northeast Asia
Type of session: Special Paper Session; Open
Session coordinators and affiliations: Daisuke Ochi, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Fisheries Research Agency, Gregg Howald, Island Conservation, and Kuniko Otsuki, Marine Bird Restoration Group
Contact: Daisuke Ochi - otthii@affrc.go.jp

This special paper session will highlight recent research on seabirds in Northeast Asia and help to promote continued development of Asian involvement in PSG, including Japan, the Republic of Korea, the People`s Republic of China, and other nearby countries. Research on seabirds has increased dramatically in this area in recent years, with new data on a variety of species that should be presented to the international seabird community. After having a Special Paper Session on Japanese and Korean Seabirds at the Juneau PSG meeting in 2014, the Japanese Seabird Conservation Committee of PSG decided to expand to become the Northeast Asia Seabird Conservation Committee (NASCC). This paper session encourages new and existing participants in the NASCC to present their research.

SPS4: 3rd Marine Spatial Planning Session
Type of session: Special Paper Session; Invited and Open
Session coordinators and affiliations: David Pereksta, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Jo Smith, TNC Canada
Contact: Jo Smith – joanna_smith@tnc.org

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) continues to be used to analyse existing and future human activities in the ocean and allocate space for multiple objectives – ecological, economic and socio-cultural. MSP is a public process specified through a political process, with decisions made by governments based on the best available science, expert and local knowledge, and stakeholder consultations. Globally, 10 countries have approved marine plans for waters under national jurisdiction, accounting for nearly 13 million square kilometres. By 2025, this number is likely to increase to more than 35 countries and 44.3 million square kilometres. In addition, MSP processes are underway to address planning needs at regional or local scales. Building on the previous PSG Marine Spatial Planning Sessions in Turtle Bay, HI (2012) and Portland, OR (2013), the "3rd Marine Spatial Planning Special Paper Session" will highlight or share recent studies, techniques, tools and approaches that are contributing information about seabirds and their habitats to MSP processes and lessons learned, or that are developing spatial data layers in relation to a particular economic development. Contributed papers may focus on a particular sector (e.g., renewable energy or shipping), specific methodologies (e.g., Marxan, modeling), or innovative ideas for incorporating seabird population information into planning processes.

Symposia:

Symposium1: Symposium on ecology and status of rare and threatened Pacific auks
Type of session: Symposium; Open
Session coordinator and affiliation: John Piatt, USGS Alaska Science Center, Gus van Vliet, Auke Bay Observatory, and Harry Carter, Carter Biological Consulting
Contact: John Piatt - jpiatt@usgs.gov

More than 20 years ago, PSG held a symposium on “behavior, ecology and status of the rare alcids" to focus attention on some poorly known species at that time, including Japanese Murrelet, Craveri's Murrelet, Xantus’ Murrelet, Kittilitz's Murrelet, Spectacled Guillemot, Long-billed Murrelet (reported as new species at this symposium), and on population genetics of rare alcids. Much has been learned since then, and much has changed. We have new species (Guadalupe and Scripps's murrelets), new conservation issues, and new tools for study. We propose to revisit this popular group of seabirds, but amend the symposium to be on "rare or threatened Pacific alcids" so as to include the threatened Marbled Murrelet, the small but well-established populations of Dovekie and Black Guillemot, and the threatened population of Tufted Puffin in the U.S. west coast. Invited papers will succinctly update, as much as data permits, the status of each species, and summarize new information on their ecology and conservation. Submitted papers may focus on any aspect of the behavior or ecology of each species, although we will be most interested in papers that add to our understanding of how species respond to current and future threats. Invited and contributed papers will be published in a peer-reviewed symposium proceedings.