

Pacific Seabird Group Aleutian Tern Technical Committee

February 27, 2019, 8AM-10AM (HI)

Aqua Kauai Beach Resort in Kaua'i, Hawaii, Jasmine 3 Room KBR

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Tania Lewis (NPS), Janelle Lopez (USFS), Leah Kenney (USFWS), Veronica Padula (UAF/St. Paul Island), Douglas Causey (UAA/UAF), Jill Tengeres (OSU/USFWS), Don Lyons (Audubon/OSU), Kelly Nesvacil (ADF&G), Susan Oehlers (USFS), Heather Renner (USFWS-by phone), Mike Goldstein (USFS-by phone), Robin Corcoran (USFWS-by phone)

The meeting started with introductions followed by Susan Oehlers presenting a powerpoint presentation summarizing highlights of recent tern research and monitoring projects completed by technical committee members and others. Some members asked for a copy of the presentation-Susan and others will edit the presentation so it is available as a stand-alone product (if you are interested in a copy please contact Susan).

Discussion of potential for stable isotope and/or or contaminants work from collected egg shell fragments and feathers:

- Doug can initiate some exploratory studies with minimal funding
- Priority for tissue samples would be genetics. Genetics information would be useful to USFWS for determining ESA status
- Leah, Doug, Don and Jill will follow up on discussions regarding the use of stable isotopes to compare diet between ALTE and ARTE and historical (Doug has access to archival data)
- Potential funding sources include USFWS and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ("NFWF")

Field season planning updates: tagging is planned for Kodiak and potentially Naknek, pending availability of birds (concern that birds might not be present at Naknek so need contingency plan)

2019 Conservation Planning Meeting draft agenda was distributed for review. Please notify Susan Oehlers, Mike Goldstein, Robin Corcoran, or Kelly Nesvacil with any edits/comments on the agenda (also e-mailed out to committee)

Robin Corcoran reported on concerns over a proposal to open the Kodiak road system to spring and summer subsistence bird harvest. This is similar to a proposal submitted in 2017, for which PSG sent a letter to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. Robin will draft a letter for review by the technical committee and then on to PSG.

Discussion of conservation goals and other potential project work needs:

- General consensus among the group that we are waiting on results of the planned statewide survey before determining conservation goals, i.e. still compiling information on what population status and conservation needs are
- While it is likely that conservation actions are ultimately necessary throughout the migratory pathway, there may be some site specific (i.e. “local”) conservation actions within AK that could be pursued in the short-term
- Potential local conservation actions on Kodiak could include relocating colonies, using social attraction to lure birds to offshore islands where less human disturbance
- Need for USFWS is an understanding of the population status-is the population declining, and if so why? What is the long-term viability?
- Potential for restoration efforts in predator free areas
- Need for more information on population(s) in a predator free area in order to assess other factors affecting productivity
- Need for additional outreach to local communities for traditional and ecological knowledge, can help fill information gaps in occupancy status and trends (potential for heritage program to help) and help with regional/statewide survey efforts and interpretation (add this topic to Conservation Planning agenda). E-birds records may also be helpful, however might be limiting.

Discussion on need to develop and populate a colony database (Alaska is not included in Pacific Seabird Program). Kelly, Robb, and Heather, will work on data management. Potential funding sources include USFWS and NFWF.