

## Pacific Seabird Group Aleutian Tern Technical Committee Meeting

February 12, 2020, 9-11AM

Portland Hilton (downtown), Broadway I

### Meeting Notes

Attendees: Susan Oehlers, Ryan Mong, Robin Corcoran, Janelle Lopez, Mike Goldstein, Leah Kenney, Robb Kaler, Don Lyons, Yat-Tung Yu, Michael Langlois, Linda Welch, Heather Renner, David Duffy, Jill Tengeres (phone)

#### Committee member updates:

Updates as summarized in the regional and annual committee reports were reviewed.

#### Additional updates:

- Report on Sakhalin Island, Russia colonies from Heather Renner; seemingly better food availability in 2019 than 2018 but one of the three major colonies surveyed in 2018 was abandoned in 2019 due to brown bear predation.
- Jill Tengeres reported 588 photos of chick diet provisioning on Kodiak
- Update on genetics from Patty Szczys presented by Don Lyons:
  - Looking for more samples this summer:
    - Ideal to have even sample sizes across sites, need ~12 from Kodiak and Dillingham. Is there anyone in Dillingham that could get samples?
    - Ideally 24-32 samples per site (can be blood/feathers/carcasses)
    - Potential for samples from Naknek and Nome this summer.
  - Patty expects to show diversity within Alaska
- Moratorium on drones use on DOI/USFWS lands
  - Can't use drones if supported in any way by FWS funds
  - We will try to get more information/updates prior to March planning meeting

#### Conservation Planning Meeting

- Scheduled for March 18-19
- USFWS Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, located at 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, AK 99507
- Sponsorship is from NFWF's Pacific Seabird Program

#### Colony survey data management

- Data prior to 2013 has been compiled. Need to compile/organize data collected since 2013
- FWS has funds to support this effort (Alaska Heritage Program is unable to do this work)
- Can a technician compile data (H. Renner could supervise with some direction)?
- We will develop a vision/strategy for collecting and sharing data, how to focus data collection in the future

- FWS Pacific Seabird Program data manager (Steve Holzman) developed a preliminary data structure and entered AK Maritime Refuge ALTE data some time ago. Some involvement by Steve may be possible in the future.
- Subcommittee-L. Kenney, H. Renner, D. Lyons, and M. Goldstein, will work on scoping document
  - Tiers:
    - Compilation of records
    - Data structure and objectives
    - Information on where birds have nested (will help with statewide survey)

#### 2020 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation pre-proposal planning

- Too early to refine any details but need to be thinking about it including who would be best to apply/administer the award and sources for match
- FWS database funding as potential match, genetics work is a 5-year grant
- We will know more after conservation planning meeting and will plan some time to discuss immediately after the planning meeting in March (i.e. while folks are still in Anchorage)

#### Potential funding opportunities

- Status of ADF&G
  - Kelly's position has not been filled yet
    - Tracy Gotthardt is our ALTE contact for now
  - Leah Kenney will touch base with Tracy
- Sources to fund implementation of statewide survey
  - FWS I&M-need to start that conversation
    - Potential for work on FWS refuge lands, but likely not off-refuge
  - NFWF's Alaska Fund is another possible source of support
    - This program is undergoing a priority-setting process and revision of the business plan. We should monitor and provide input when/if possible.
  - NFWF's Pacific Seabird Program's planned end date is the end of 2021.
    - There is currently no information on a possible renewal of funding, but we should monitor.
  - Will form a sub-committee at the conservation planning meeting (M. Goldstein lead?)

#### 2020 field season plans

- Nome tagging
  - Risks: low on the ground knowledge, narrow timing window (~3rd week of June)
  - Don Lyons and Robin Corcoran are working on logistics
  - Kodiak as back-up
  - Local ADF&G support
  - Suggestion to ask Colleen Handel for support
  - Back up housing plan?
  - S. Oehlers will reach out to local contacts for back up logistics support

- Alaska Maritime NWR will make visits to 2 colonies, Chirikof (~early July) and Attu ~ early June). At both of these we will do counts and opportunistically collect any genetic material available (carcasses, eggshells etc).
- Robb Kaler is working on getting genetic samples from Russia –bureaucratic hurdles

#### International collaboration:

- Yat-Tung Yu and Robb Kaler would like to promote ALTE along the flyway to expand collaboration
- Don Lyons will assess how to post tagging locations online this summer
  - Where to host it? Work with Pacific Seabird working group?

#### Action Items:

- Collect genetic samples 2020 field season (all-need volunteer to follow up with Dillingham contacts)
- Develop scoping document for colony survey data management (Kenney, Renner, Lyons, and Goldstein)
- Coordinate with Tracy Gotthardt regarding conservation planning meeting participation and ADF&G prioritization of ALTE (Kenney)
- Form a sub-committee at the conservation planning meeting to pursue funding sources for implementation of statewide survey (Goldstein)
- Investigate back-ups/local contacts for Nome tagging (Oehlers)
- Promotion of ALTE along the flyway, including posting tagging locations on line (Lyons, Yu, and Kaler)