

## PSG Aleutian Tern (ALTE) Technical Committee Meeting

2/12/16 (Pacific Seabird Group Conference, Oahu)

Attendees: Don Lyons (OSU), Susan Oehlers (USFS Yakutat), Sanjay Pyare (UAS), Yasuko Suzuki (OSU), David Irons (USFWS-retired), Veronica Padula (UAA), McKenna Hanson (UAA), Scott Hall (NFWF), Kelly Nesvacil (ADF&G), Iain Stenhouse (BRI), Simba Chan (BirdLife International), Heather Renner (USFWS), Elizabeth Labunski (USFWS), Robb Kaler (USFWS), Leah Kenney (USFWS), Martin Renner (Tern Again Consulting), Mike Goldstein (USFS-via Skype)

General introductions of individual attendees. Susan reported that the PSG Executive Committee approved our group as a technical committee, with Susan as chair.

Committee objectives:

- Expand network of ALTE people
  - o Particularly in SE Asia (wintering grounds)
- Identify research needs/goals
- Identify funding sources, facilitate dialogue

Discussion points:

- Follow up to past letter to FWS?
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> letter? Request status review (little support for that)? Request upgrade to Tier 1 status? Team with other organizations (e.g., CBD)?
    - Point out past letter, sustained interest
    - Request Tier 1 status
    - List information needs that could be obtained (funded) if Tier 1
- Possible interest in ALTE from FWS Subsistence office (Lily Naves)
  - o Aware of possible issues on Kodiak
  - o Additional information on subsistence practices needed (people surveys)
- Should IUCN status be reviewed?
  - o “Least Concern” status makes developing partners, particularly in Asia, problematic
  - o Russian population status makes range-wide status review difficult (survey needed for Sakhalin Island, in particular)
    - Can we develop contact in Russia to obtain better data?
      - Mike Goldstein, Forest Service International Programs
      - Wildlife Conservation Society
      - World Wildlife Fund (Margaret Williams, Anchorage)
      - Doug Causey (Russian contacts)
    - Linkage between colonies in Russia and migration routes of several tagged individuals
    - New paper out on some population trends in Russia
  - o Other connections under development between FS International Programs and people in Indonesia and other locations
  - o East Asian-Australian Flyway is a possible networking resource

- Seabird working group (Robb Kaler, FWS, chair)
  - Connections of Simba Chan (Birdlife Asia)
- NFWF perspective
  - Objectives for this species would be primarily information needs
  - Domestic-oriented objectives would be a high priority
    - Demographics
    - Colony movement
    - Food web
  - Partnering on international programs (with FS International Programs) could also be possible
- ADFG
  - ALTE is on the state priority list
    - Interested in new colonies, movement rate, separating population decline from possible colony relocation, demographic work, recruitment, contaminants
  - Partner Program is under development for State Wildlife Grant Program (non-federal grant requirement)
- Develop study plans
  - Demographic study
  - Iain Stenhouse (BRI) may be able to help with analysis (mercury) of blood and feathers for reasonable rate
  - Sanjay, Don, and Kelly are interested in helping develop study plan(s)

#### **Action items:**

1. Follow up to letter from Stan Senner: Susan will check with PSG Executive Committee to see if there was any response to first letter. Draft follow up letter (including to FWS Migratory Bird and Ecological Services Office and Regional Letter) requesting elevation to Tier 1 status (Susan will take the lead, work with group to draft letter).
2. Expand our networking (including working toward better population estimates from Russia and eventually reevaluation of IUCN status):
  - a. Mike Goldstein is working with FS International Programs
  - b. Wildlife Conservation Society (Mike and Sanjay?)
  - c. World Wildlife Fund (Margaret Williams-Mike/IP?)
  - d. Doug Causey-Russian contacts
  - e. Seabird Working Group (Robb Kaler)
  - f. BirdLife Asia (Simba Chan)
3. Develop Study Plan(s): Sanjay, Kelly, Don, Susan, others?