To: Pacific Seabird Group Executive Council  
From: Katie O’Reilly and Jane Dolliver, Elections Committee Co-Coordinators  
Sadie Wright, Member, Elections Committee  
Marc Romano, Member, Elections Committee  
Date: 13 February 2022  

PSG Elections Committee Report 2022

A. Elections overview and results
The PSG Elections for the 2022-2023 Executive Council closed on Saturday, 12 February, 2022 at 11:59PM. The candidates in bold type below are the membership recommended candidates to be approved by vote of the Executive Council on Monday, 21 February 2022. There was a tie for Regional Representative of Europe & Africa. Per the PSG Bylaws, “In the event of a tie on the ballot, the selection will be made by a majority vote of the current Executive Council.” i.e., EXCO will need to vote to break this tie. No write-in candidates were listed; “write-in” was checked once, but no candidate name was submitted, instead this was a “prefer not to vote” comment, so it was included in the “prefer not to vote” category.

Chair-elect  
**Richard “Dick” Veit (New York)**

Treasurer  
**Jenny Howard McKeel (North Carolina)**

Student Representative  
**Karen Lau Alarcón (Peru)**  
Quinn Carvey (Canada)

Alaska and Russia Regional Representative  
Megan Boldenow (Anchorage)  
Daniel Rizzolo (Fairbanks)  
**Alexis Will (Fairbanks)**

Asia and Oceania Regional Representative  
Chung Hang Hung (Taiwan)  
**Jean-Baptiste Thiebot (Japan)**

Europe and Africa Regional Representative  
**Tegan Carpenter-Kling (South Africa)**

Currently, I am the Coastal Seabird Project Manager at BirdLife South Africa (BLSA). My work focuses on analyzing tracking data from African penguins, Cape gannets and Cape cormorants to inform Marine Spatial Planning and Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management initiatives in South Africa. As part of my role at BLSA, I am the African Representative on the World Seabird Union, I act as the coordinator for the Agreement on the Conservation of Africa-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Benguela Current Seabird International Working Group and I am observer on three governmental scientific working groups. Following two year-long over-wintering trips on Marion Island, and 4 months on Possession Island, I completed a PhD thesis which investigated the foraging and stable isotope ecology of 10 seabird and 2 fur seal species in relation to climatic variability. The PSG is an excellent platform to initiate a collaborative effort across the globe to tackle threats and conservation issues Pacific seabirds are facing. As the regional representative for Africa and Europe, I would like to increase awareness of PSG within
seabird scientific and conservation communities, promoting the various functions of the group. I am also particularly interested in using the PSG platform to identify understudied seabird species and promote further research on any such species to understand their conservation status. The PSG is a powerful society that I look for to being a part of. Although I have never served as a regional representative, I am excited to get roped in and help where I can!

Rory Crawford (United Kingdom)
I love seabirds (especially auks, petrels and albatrosses) and have been very fortunate to be involved in their conservation as part of the BirdLife International network for most of my working life. I started in marine policy work in Scotland in 2009, moved to island restoration project development and, in 2013, started working for our global Marine Programme, with a strong focus on fisheries bycatch. In this period, I’ve directed collaborative research efforts to identify technical solutions to this problem in gillnets and managed our international Albatross Task Force, which tackles seabird bycatch with a grassroots-up approach. I am also engaged with market-based approaches to reduce seabird bycatch. Although much of my career has been devoted to seabird conservation in the nonprofit sector, I have had little direct involvement with PSG. However, I have supported colleagues in preparing presentations and papers, and know PSG to be a vital grouping for galvanizing collaborative research and actions. I am also a member of/engage with related groupings, including the Seabird Bycatch Working Group of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and have organized sessions at the last two World Seabird Conferences, serving on the Communications Committee for the second conference in Cape Town. My main interest in PSG is how we can best convert the incredible resource of collective research efforts into priority conservation actions, with a particular keenness to advance efforts to prevent the impacts of unsustainable fishing, within which there are a number of solvable yet ongoing issues.

Northern California Regional Representative
Sarah Ann Thompson (Petaluma)

B. Summary of the 2022 elections process:
1. Ballots sent 1/14/2022
2. Reminders were sent: 1/31/2022, 2/9/2022, 2/12/2022
3. 5 life members did not get a ballot and were added to the invites on 1/15/2022
4. 2 members could not get survey monkey notifications at their work address; they were sent a new ballot at their personal address.
5. 1 member changed regions and was sent a new ballot
6. 1 member had not renewed by 1/14 and when they did, they received a new ballot
7. 1 member was blocked from receiving survey monkey emails and filled out a google forms ballot instead. This ballot was manually added to the regional totals.
8. All regions were checked for instances of accidental double voting (e.g., current membership under 2 emails)
9. All ballots were checked to make sure only student members voted for student representative.

C. Summary of the 2022 voter turnout
1. 54% of eligible voters with a current email address submitted a ballot, across all regions. This is slightly lower turnout than 2021 – 57%, which was the highest turnout in the last 5 years. The Elections Committee’s goal is 50% turnout, every year.
2. Reporting by region: Alaska/Russia 72%, Asia/Oceania 41%, Canada 59%, Europe/Africa 45%, Non-Pacific U.S. States 51%, Northern California 49%, Southern California 55%, Washington/Oregon 57%.
D. **Summary of voter comments**

1. **Candidate recommendations:**
   a. Also, I recommend Carlos Zavalaga and Jen Zamon for leadership positions.
   b. Beth Phillips
   c. Tony deGange
   d. Laird Henkel and Holly Gellerman with CA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
   e. Suggestion for a future Regional Representative for Asia & Oceania: Dr. Won-Young Lee, Korean Polar Research Institute
   f. Petra Quillfeldt (Justus Liebig University, Germany) José Alfredo Castillo Guerrero (Universidad de Guadalajara, México)

2. **Elections process comments - positive:**
   a. The choice of student representative was a difficult one - I hope we can keep Karen Lau involved in some way.
   b. Thanks for finding folks to run for the open positions on the EXCO!
   c. Nice job! Thank you for the excellent descriptions!
   d. Looks awesome! Easy voting in PNW. Thank you so much for securing the slate and making the ballot!!
   e. Can't wait to welcome this new EXCO. Thank you, Elections Committee and for all who submitted their name to run this year.
   f. I think that online voting works fine. This SM format seems like the best so far. Thanks, Committee!
   g. THANK YOU Election Committee!!!
   h. Three great candidates for Alaska/Russia rep! It was hard to choose, and I will be happy with any one of them.
   i. Thank you for sending the reminder email :-)

3. **Elections process comments – negative:**
   a. Please run more than one person. How is it an election with only one choice?
   b. I would prefer to see more than one candidate for Chair-elect. Please give us a real choice, not just an "approval" of a single candidate.
   c. I am very disappointed to see only one candidate for each of the major positions up for election. I understand that finding candidates may be difficult given COVID, but I prefer not to vote given the lack of options.

E. **Summary of time committed by the Elections Committee**

1. Prospective candidate emails/Zooms/Elections Committee meetings ~17 hours
2. Candidate bios compile ~2 hours
3. Ballot set-up and QA/QC ~2 hours
4. Ballot checks and reminders ~4 hours
5. Final report and updates to EXCO, committee members ~4 hours
6. Total time estimated ~29 hours

F. **Recommendations for future elections**

1. This committee is still in need of additional volunteer help, especially for E(1,2,3) – above. Desired pre-requisites include a) deep history with the PSG community and/or exceptional networking and online research/investigative capabilities, b) desire to elevate and increase participation from persons historically underrepresented in PSG leadership c) endlessly positive and dogged in their electronic communications d) free time, especially Oct-Feb.
2. We welcome participation by EXCO members who are not running in 2023, and/or are stepping off EXCO, but would like to continue to serve PSG. Please reach out! psg_elections@pacificseabirdgroup.org