Pacific Seabird Group
SEABIRD MONITORING COMMITTEE
2021 Report
Coordinator: Robb Kaler

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) Seabird Monitoring Committee (SMC) was formed in 1992 and has four main themes: (1) coordinate sharing of monitoring results in a timely manner, (2) evaluate current year results to help inform other PSG committees, (3) develop standardized protocols and data management practices, and (4) promote the effective use of seabirds as indicators of local and large-scale change in the Pacific marine environment. During the annual PSG Seabird Monitoring Committee meeting held online, the SMC met and shared regional updates on 2021 population trends and identified topics of conservation concern meriting informing the PSG Executive Committee, Conservation Committee, or technical committees.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) continued to make progress on seabird conservation under the auspices of the USFWS Pacific Seabird Program (PSP). In July 2021, Marc Romano was hired as the PSP Coordinator. The PSP Data Manager, Steve Holtzman (retired in March 2021) worked with Scott Hatch (Institute for Seabird Research and Conservation; USGS, retired) to migrate the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database (PSMD) to an Amazon Web Services web site which also allowed access via a User Interface. The PSMD, which archives annual records from Pacific seabird monitoring studies, includes over 2,800 time series with >20,000 observations but was removed from its network connection at the USGS Alaska Science Center in 2013. Additional discussions are needed to develop a unifying vision and long-term support. Additionally, the USFWS Alaska Region joined the PSP and

Looking forward, we will ask committee members to help identify challenges to overcome and provide input on how the SMC can be more effective at sharing information and directing conservation efforts. Topics include: Are research results available in a timely enough manner to be useful for their intended purpose? Are methods consistent enough for broader synthesis? Do we have the data needed to answer key questions?