

## Report #2g. Aleutian Tern Technical Committee Report

### **Pacific Seabird Group Aleutian Tern Technical Committee 2024 Annual Report**

Assembled by Jill Tengeres and Susan Oehlers (U.S. Forest Service)  
Co-Chairs

#### **IN THE FIELD**

##### **Surveys and observations**

- **Robin Corcoran (USFWS Kodiak NWR)** and **volunteer Rich MacIntosh** monitored tern colonies along the Kodiak road system. The colony at the head of Pasagshak Bay, indicating it was one of the largest known colonies in Alaska during the 2024 breeding season with approximately 210 adult terns. Several fledglings were also documented, making it one of the most successful colonies monitored on Kodiak the past two years.
- **Susan Oehlers and Reyna Abreu-Vigil (U.S. Forest Service)** monitored the Black Sand Spit colony in the Yakutat area for general colony phenology, abundance, and breeding success. Two direct colony counts were conducted in June. On June 4th, 751 ALTE were estimated, and on June 24th 832 ALTE were estimated.
- A subset of committee members (representing **USFWS, USFS, OSU, Audubon, Tern Again Consulting**) in collaboration with **Trent McDonald** (McDonald Data Sciences) and **Anne Schaefer (Prince William Sound Science Center)**, and support from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, developed and implemented the second year of a planned multi-year statewide survey in Cook Inlet and the Alaska Peninsula/Bristol Bay. This team conducted aerial surveys over 31 plane days (both regions combined) from June 4 - July 3, 2024. A total of 142 putative colonies were detected during the aerial surveys. Ground-based surveys were subsequently conducted at 51 (36%) of the aerially-detected colonies. Aleutian terns were present at 16 (31%) of the ground-surveyed colonies. When Aleutian terns were present, ground crews counted 1 – 105 individuals. The largest count of Aleutian terns occurred at an aggregation in Peterson Lagoon on the north side of Unimak Island. We were not able to confirm a colony during 6 ground surveys (12%; i.e., no terns were detected, “phantom colonies”). Planning is underway for surveys in 2025.

##### **Conservation**

- **Robin Corcoran (USFWS Kodiak NWR)** collaborated with the Department of Natural Resources to prevent/mitigate impacts from cattle to the Pasagshak Bay active nesting colony.

#### **MANUSCRIPTS**

- **Nesvacil, K., G. Pendleton, J.P. Skinner, S. Oehlers, J. Mondragon, and D.E. Lyons.** “Breeding season movements of Aleutian terns *Onychoprion aleuticus*: Implications for Population Assessment and Monitoring (manuscript accepted by Marine Ornithology).
- **Tengeres, J. E., K. Dugger, R. Corcoran, and D. E. Lyons** “Factors influencing daily nest survival rates of Aleutian terns in the Kodiak Archipelago, Alaska” (manuscript accepted by Journal of Wildlife Management)
- **Tengeres, J. E., R. Corcoran, and D. E. Lyons** “Foraging niche of pre-laying and juvenile Aleutian terns in the Kodiak Archipelago, Alaska” (manuscript in prep)

## PRESENTATIONS AND OUTREACH

- **Corcoran, R.** "Aleutian Tern monitoring in the Kodiak Archipelago". Presentation at the Kodiak Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council Meeting (February 2024)
- **Corcoran, R. and J.E. Tengeres.** 2024 Population estimates and conservation concerns of Aleutian Terns breeding in the Kodiak Archipelago. Presentation at Pacific Seabird Group Annual Conference, Seattle, WA (February 2024)
- **Corcoran, J., E.Tengeres, D. Lyons, K. Nesvacil, T. Rhoads, S. Oehlers, T. Lawes, and K. Stoner.** **2024.** Investigating Aleutian Tern breeding and migration season movements using satellite telemetry 2019-2023. Poster at Pacific Seabird Group Annual Conference, Seattle, WA (February 2024)
- **Oehlers, S.O.** Aleutian Tern Research and Monitoring. Presentation at Yakutat Tern Festival. Yakutat, AK (May 31, 2024).
- **Renner et al.** An Alaska-wide survey for a rare and declining tern. Presentation at Pacific Seabird Group Annual Conference, Seattle, WA (February 2024)
- **Renner et al.** An Alaska-wide survey for a rare and declining tern. Presentation at Kachemak Bay Science Conference, Homer, AK.
- **Renner et al.** An Alaska-wide survey for a rare and declining tern. Presentation at Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference and Forum, Nome, Alaska. Presented by Jannelle Trowbridge (April 2024).

## Report #2h. Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee Report

### Pacific Seabird Group

### 2024 Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee Annual Report

Prepared by Lindsay Adrean and Bill McIver, co-chairs

#### Meetings: