

- Mentees will be matched to mentors (either one on one or in groups of two) based on research interests and career levels
- The mentor matching form was sent on December 10<sup>th</sup> with a deadline to fill out by December 20<sup>th</sup>
- As of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 100 people have filled out the form – 49 mentees, 33 mentors, and 18 people that were open to either being mentored or being a mentor.
- The week prior to the event, the form will be closed, and Alyssa, Anna and Juliet will meet to match mentors to mentees

#### **The Early Career Scientist Panel**

- This year's panel will focus on seabird/waterbird research and conservation in Latin America
- The panel will be moderated by Alyssa Eby (looking for an additional Spanish speaking moderator)
- Confirmed panelists include Rafael Revorêdo, Natalia Bayona, Paula F. Chávez-Arriaga, and Roselvy Juárez
  - The panel will be held at 5:30 at the Museum on Tuesday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 for 60 minutes

#### [Report #2f. Vice Chair for Conservation Annual Report](#)

### **Pacific Seabird Group**

## **2024 Conservation Committee Annual Report**

Prepared by Lindsay Adrean, Vice-chair for Conservation

#### **Conservation Committee letters submitted in 2024:**

- Cashes Ledge: Letter to President Biden urging protections of Cashes Ledge. Letter drafted by Environment America.
- Channel Islands Fishing Closure: Letter to California Fish and Game Commission supporting seasonal prohibition of night-time fishing around three islands to protect breeding Scripps's Murrelet.
- Farallon Islands funding: Letter to Congress urging them to continue funding USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System and specifically Farallon Islands NWR year-round monitoring. Letter drafted by Point Blue Conservation Science.
- Bahía de Los Angeles Marine Biosphere Reserve: Letter to Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Mexico) during open comment period for a plan to expand a sardine fishery in the Gulf of California. The Manifestación de Impacto

Ambiental (MIA) did not adequately cover potential impacts to seabirds such as by-catch from purse-seine nets, among other deficiencies.

#### **Conservation Committee letters in preparation for early 2025:**

- January 2025: Letter to US Congress urging adoption of the Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act which would implement the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.
- February 2025: Comment letter regarding a proposed land exchange between USFWS and King Cove Native Corporation, Alaska. Proposed by the PSG Aleutian Tern Technical Committee. Concerns that draft Supplemental EIS did not adequately address Aleutian Tern needs. Comment period closes February 13.

#### **Additional Work:**

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: As a result of the HPAI symposium at the 2024 meeting of PSG, the HPAI working group developed a statement to heighten awareness of the issue. The Conservation Committee collaborated with the HPAI working group to develop a list of contacts for outreach. The resulting list consisted of nearly 100 domestic and international organizations, including state and federal agencies, professional societies, and NGOs. The HPAI statement was distributed to these contacts, posted on the PSG website, and sent to PSG members via the listserv.
- The Conservation Committee obtained approval from EXCO to establish a mechanism for alerting PSG members of seabird conservation opportunities and policy developments, as proposed by PSG member Brad Keitt of American Bird Conservancy. The EXCO agreed that action alerts and policy notifications originating from ABC that are relevant to seabird conservation can be posted to the PSG listserv directly by Mr. Keitt.

#### **Suggestions for 2025:**

- Continue improving communication methods with PSG members to ensure that conservation issues are brought forward for consideration.
  - Consult with PSG regional representatives on a quarterly basis
  - Send reminders to PSG listserv quarterly and along with notification of Conservation Committee activities
- Consult with EXCO to formalize the method of comment letter creation, approval, and dissemination to members.
  1. Conservation issue identified
  2. Comment letter drafted by or with input from subject matter experts
  3. Letter brought by Vice-chair to EXCO for review and approval
  4. Letter submitted to appropriate authority
  5. Letter posted to PSG website
  6. Announcement made to PSG listserv