

Report #2p. PSG World Seabird Union Delegate Annual Report

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Committee Name: PSG Delegates to the World Seabird Union (Marc Romano and Anna Vallery)

Date Committee Formed: 2012

WSU Overview

The World Seabird Union (WSU) is a scientific organization founded in 2010, focused on seabird science and conservation. It was established following the first World Seabird Conference, and it serves as a convening body for seabird conservationists, managers, and researchers. and is made up of 20 marine ornithological organizations worldwide. The WSU mission is to place seabird research, management, and conservation into a worldwide perspective. The WSU vision is to create and enhance sustainable, diverse networks and partnerships for fostering and sharing seabird research, knowledge, and ideas on a global level.

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is a founding member organization and has a primary and alternate delegate to the WSU Executive Council. The PSG delegate votes for the Executive Board and Officers and bylaw changes. They do not vote on Board decisions, but attend conference calls, contribute to discussions, participate in committees, and assist in planning the next World Seabird Conference (WSC). Committees to date include financial planning, review of conservation proposals, conference planning, fundraising, communications, early career scientists, awards, elections, and a Committee on Seabirds & Plastic Pollution.

World Seabird Conference #4 Planning

Work has continued on planning the next World Seabird Conference (WSC 4), scheduled to take place in September 7-11, 2026 in Hobart, Tasmania. The Australasian Seabird Group (ASG) will be hosting the meeting.

The WSU Board has received a Draft Budget from the conference planner, but details and final cost still need to be worked out. They hope to have it finalized soon.

The WSU Board proposed the idea of PSG co-hosting WSC4. Specifically, the WSU Board proposed that PSG co-host the virtual component of WSC4, allowing for a hybrid meeting structure that would allow PSG members that will not be able to attend WSU4 in-person to still be able to participate in the conference. Anna and Marc presented this idea to the PSG EXCO and the proposal generated good conversation and several questions for the WSU board.

To keep this conversation going, WSU will work on getting a cost estimate on the hybrid option from the conference planner. They are just finalizing the in-person budget component, and once that is settled, they will ask for the add on for hybrid. WSU has asked for this as a standalone cost in the initial RFP for the planner, so they are aware it may be coming.

For previous WSC meetings, a call for symposia to member organizations was sent out across social media platforms. The WSU Board expects that the call will start soon for WSC 4.

Strategic Plan

The Packard Foundation have offered WSU a three-year grant of \$25k per year unrestricted funds towards implementation of the strategic plan, completed in 2023.

WSU Website and Social Media

Carrie Kovalik, WSU Communications Coordinator, has completed significant updates to the WSU website. The site is currently available at <https://worldseabirdunion.org/>. Please note that this is a new domain (replacing seabirds.net). The site has seen large Increases in active and new users since launch with more people visiting multiple screens or engaging with the website. Home page and conference/events pages are getting the most traffic. Referrals are coming primarily through Google, Facebook, and some direct access. There has been lots of engagement from Europe, South Africa, Oceania, and Argentina (great to see a truly global distribution of visitors!). Most of the engagement has come from younger demographics (18-24, 25-34).

New WSU Logo

The WSU has developed a new logo! Moving forward it will be used on all WSU communications and virtual platforms.



Report #2q. PSG NPAWG Delegate Annual Report

North Pacific Albatross Working Group 2024 Annual Report