

WSU Conference Call
Atlantic Call 1700 GMT Thursday, 12 July, 2012
Pacific Call 2400 GMT Monday, 23 July, 2012

WSUTT Member Organizations & Representatives					
Member Organization	Representative	Initials	Role*	July 12	July 23
Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird)	Dave Irons, Chair	DI	P	A	A
	John Croxall, Vice-Chair	JC		A	
African Seabird Group	Ross Wanless	RW	P	R	
American Bird Conservancy	George Wallace	GW	P		
Argentine Seabird Group	Pablo Yorio	PY	P	R	
Australasian Seabird Group	Peter Dann	PD	P		A
Australasian Seabird Group	Nicholas Carlile	NC	A		A
BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme	Ben Sullivan	BS	P	R	
BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme	Ben Lascelles	BL	A		
Dutch Seabird Group	Kees Camphuysen	KC	P	A	
European Seabirds at Sea Group	Stefan Garthe	SG	P		
Indian Ocean Seabird Group	Matthieu Le Corre	MLC	P		
Japan Seabird Group	Yutaka Watanuki	YW	P		
Medmaravis	Carles Carboneras	CC	P	R	
NW Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative	Melanie Steinkamp	MS	P		
Pacific Seabird Group	Pat Jodice	PJ	P	A	A
Peruvian Assn for the Conservation of Nature	Liliana Ayala	LA	P		
Royal Naval Birdwatching Society	Steve Copsey	SC	P		
Soc for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds	Will Mackin	WM	P		
The Seabird Group	Linda Wilson	LW	A		
The Seabird Group	Russell Wynn	WR	P		
The Waterbird Society	Betty Anne Schreiber	BAS	P		
Waterbird Conservation of the Americas	Jennifer Wheeler	JW	P	A	
* Role: P=Primary Representative, A=Alternate Representative					
Associates (non-voting)					
Department of Conservation, New Zealand	Graeme Taylor	GT			
WSU Support					
Function	Contact	Initials			
Seabirds.net	Annette Henry	AH			
Seabirds.net	Grant Humphries	GH			A
WSU Secretariat	Marischal De Armond	MD		A	A
Helping with Global Seabird Colony Register	Robb Kaler	RK			
Attendance: A = Attended					

Minutes

12 July – DI called the meeting to order at 17:05 GMT
23 July – DI called the meeting to order at 24:02 GMT

Review of Action Items – Action items are covered in the respective agenda items. Action items noted in black indicate that the action item has been completed. Current action items remain in red.

1. Establishment of World Seabird Union

ACTION: 19 Jan – JC asks all WSU members to review the articles, with particular attention on the following:

- Article 2 Section 4 – Membership
- Article 3 Sections 4 and 6 – Board of Directors
- Article 4 Section 2 – Officers

17 April – JC confirmed that some input had been received as a result of people reviewing these documents and that this input will be incorporated into the articles

17 April - DI confirmed that the current interim Board Members are: JC (Europe), JH and DI (North America), and NC (Australasia), however as JH has just departed her job with American Bird Conservancy, she is no longer in a position to serve on the board or as the ABC representative. DI asked for input on potential future board composition

17 April - JC – confirmed that the call is still open to all to participate, Board might engage more directly and actively by email. His personal vision is that the Board be a broadly representative geographically and by actual representatives of specific bird groups. His position is that of someone representing a general interest and should not be considered a board member going forward. Additionally, JC confirmed that BS is the primary representative of BirdLife International and with regrets was unable to participate in this call.

17 April - BAS – suggested broad representation with 7-8 members

17 April - KC – need to have Euro groups work together to identify a board rep that is satisfactory to their region

17 April - DI asked for clarifications from Australasian Seabird Group on representation

ACTION: 17 April - KC to coordinate with the 5 main Euro groups to establish a Euro process to identify and nominate a board member

12 July: KC confirmed that there have been no other candidates stepping forward to represent Europe and therefore he will continue to serve as the European rep.

ACTION: 17 April - DI to determine legal aspects of moving forward with Board composition and election

ACTION: 17 April - NC to confirm with PD regarding Australasian Seabird Group representation

23 July – NC confirmed that PD will serve as the member rep from the Australasia Seabird Group.

ACTION: 17 April - MD to recirculate the notice for organizations to provide their profile info for the website

12 July - JC recommended and it was agreed that the full board should comprise representation from the major geographic regions as follows:

- President (non specific geographically)
- North America
- Europe
- Africa/Indian Ocean
- Australasia
- Asia
- Central/South America

23 July – DI reviewed the planned representation as noted above and was supported in this model. GH asked how student participation would be handled within this model. DI indicated that this model does not preclude students being the named reps from the indicated zone. NC suggested each zone identify a student rep who would provide input to the actual regional rep. PJ suggested that students might be better served by having them serve on the respective WSC2 planning committees.

23 July – PD suggested we also need representation for Antarctica and after some discussion it was noted that Antarctica does not have any resident Seabird organizations and therefore should not stand on its own as a separate region, however, like the Africa/Indian Ocean representation, it was felt that Australasia region should be updated to Australasia/Antarctica.

ACTION: 23 July – DI to ask Atlantic group for input on change of representation from Australasia to Australasia/Antarctica

12 July – DI outlined the election process per the new bylaws. Specifically each member organization is provided with a single vote and voting is to be done by ballot (ok for electronic/email voting). Board term is 5 years, however for the first election the term for some of the Board will be for 3 years to ensure the whole board does not turn-over every 5 years. Board members can serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. Board quorum is 50% of the total number of Board Members (i.e. for 7 members, quorum is 4).

12 July – DI asked for input on the request from the Ornithological Society of New Zealand for membership. Present members were in favor of them joining.

23 July – All were in favour of including the OSNZ as a member

ACTION: 23 July – DI to contact OSNZ to confirm their participation and to have Graeme Taylor serve as their representative.

2. World Seabird Conference

ACTION: 24 Oct – PJ and MD to develop a one page overview outlining general terms and commitments of a local host working in conjunction with the WSC standing committees (i.e. Scientific, Student Awards et al) and the conference secretariat.

17 April – MD confirmed that the major portion of this document has been completed

ACTION: 17 April – PJ and MD to finish draft conference hosting document and circulate for feedback from the group

23 July – PJ confirmed that the planning document has now been completed with 2 models presented; one related to organizing a conference with a Local Host and a 2nd model related to WSU running the meeting without a local host partner.

ACTION: 23 July – PJ/MD to circulate conference hosting documents to the WSU committee for their feedback

ACTION: 19 Jan – DI to contact his Norwegian contacts about pursuing a bid to host

17 April - DI contacted Norwegian contacts who feel the project may be larger than they can handle and suggested a Denmark option. (Copenhagen). Alternate option is for the African Seabird Group to host. JC suggested the African Seabird Group be contacted with a firm date for a response.

ACTION: 12 July – PJ to approach Denmark contact and JC to contact RW regarding the African Seabird Group to explore their interest in hosting WSC2.

23 July – PJ indicated that contact is on holidays until the end of August.

17 April - DI has collected some docs from WSC1 to help with developing the Conference Planning handbook

3. WSC Legacy developments

3.1 Seabirds.net

17 April - DI confirmed that Seabirds.net payments for \$10K are being paid

17 April - DI confirmed that work is underway on getting content for symposium publications ready and once complete will be posted to Seabirds.net

17 April – Following group consensus, it was agreed that WSU groups should be provided with Seabirds.net web space if desired

23 July – GH updated Seabirds.net progress. Due to the departure of a key staff member the launch has been delayed with the new launch date being in time for the IAPC5. During IAPC5 GH will be making a public launch/presentation about the site. GH also indicated he has set up a WSU facebook (www.facebook.com/world.seabird.union) and a twitter account (@seabirders). The intention is to build followings through these two sites and to provide weekly updates provided by seabirders around the world.

ACTION: 17 April - DI to contact GH to make provision for WSU groups to have web space on Seabirds.net

ACTION: 17 April – All WSU groups to coordinate and deliver to GH, relevant information about their organization for inclusion on the Seabirds.net website

23 July – GH indicated that he has only received organizational information from a few groups

3.2 Seabird colony databases (Monitoring and Register)

ACTION: 19 Jan - DI asked that all members confirm with himself or JC about data they have that can be added to the GSR

17 April – DI confirmed that Global Seabird Colony Register (GSCR) – developing consensus on this budget item before confirming the direction for this project

23 July – PD indicated that he and NC are having trouble accessing the GSCR to upload some data and are awaiting some support from Axiom or Rob Kaler (in DI's office) for help.

17 April - RK will be modeled on the circumpolar seabird register

ACTION: 17 April - DI to consolidate feedback received on GSCR plan and send out to the group for final input

ACTION: 17 April - RK & Birdlife International to discuss inter-operability issues (i.e. Marine IBA's)

12 July – JC noted that based on the advise from the PSG chair, the proposal for funding for populating the GSCR, will be submitted in Sept/Oct as the PSG is required to respond within 30 of such a request and their committee will not have time to meet and respond properly if submitted now.

3.3 Seabird tracking databases

17 April - No updates at this time. JC indicated BirdLife team are occupied with other initiatives before being able to focus on this, likely late this fall

3.4 Seabird-at-sea databases

ACTION: 19 Jan - DI to contact Kathy Kuletz for updates on the Seabird-at-sea database plan

17 April - DI contacted Kathy Kuletz to have her upload the NP Seabird database

ACTION: 17 April – DI to ask KK to participate in next conference call after contacting individuals regarding their databases

12 July – DI confirmed that KK has been working on the NP Seabird database and that she will be able to participate in the October conference call.

12 July – KC confirmed that an email has been circulated from ESAS (SG) to the European groups regarding using OBIS. KC's concern is that this system is more of a "parking" of data vs an interactive set of data and suggests WSU should be in touch with ESAS to shift the energies into an interoperable system with WSU's database.

3.5 Indicators of performance, productivity and population status

17 April – DI indicated that data has now been entered from Pablo Yorio regarding Argentinian/South American studies and published papers and that Caribbean data sets are being pursued with WM. Each country/region will be responsible for entering their own data, Axiom will be managing the hosting of the data. The overall concept is to have a network of inter-operable databases where the data belongs to everyone. Some resources may be available for assistance in entering data if needed

17 April - KC noted he has support from a Dutch Group which manages some 200 colonies

17 April - IC working group on Seabird Ecology needs to be contacted for support for the databases

17 April – RK described Indices definitions as agreed by Circumpolar Seabird Group. WSU group agreed to try these definitions and will provide input on whether changes are needed

ACTION: 17 April – RK to get definitions of indices circulated to the WSU

3.6 Mortality events

KC reported that there was very good input and engagement at WSC1 however it has not done much since

ACTION: KC to re-engage the group that met at WSC1 to establish a plan for moving this initiative forward

23 July – DI reported that he has had conversation with Julia Parrish from COASST in Oregon. She is very interested in advancing this project

3.7 Other topics (e.g. habitat restoration, marine spatial planning)

17 April – there were no additional topics discussed

4. Other matters

ACTION: 19 Jan - MD to circulate the WSUTT Annual report to the WSC database, with any necessary updates and an appropriate cover note from JC & DI, following the upcoming PSG annual meeting

17 April – MD confirmed this had been circulated

ACTION: 26 Jan - DI to poll WSU members about their attendance at the 5th International Conference on the Biology & Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels (www.iapc5.co.nz) Aug 13 -17 in Wellington NZ. If an appropriate mass of WSU members are in attendance, then a WSU planning meeting could be coordinated.

17 April – DI confirmed that there seems to be sufficient attendance at this meeting to warrant a get together with WSU reps in attendance. An invitation will be sent regarding time and place for the meeting

ACTION: 23 July – JC to issue an invitation with date, time and place to organize a planning meeting with WSU members during IAPC5

ACTION: 17 April - DI to circulate a letterhead draft for input.

12 July – DI circulated a draft letterhead. MD agreed to tweak it and re-send it

5. Next Conference Call

Pacific Call 2400 GMT 4 October, Atlantic Call 1700 GMT 11 October, 2012

6. Adjournment

12 July – DI adjourned the meeting at 17:45 GMT

23 July – DI adjourned the meeting at 01:12 GMT (July 24)