

Seabirds.Net - Tentative Action Plan

Seabirds.net is a web portal that will act as a gateway to important seabird information. Seabirds are an integral part of the global marine biosphere. In order to properly protect these species, and to help in understanding the global oceans, it is important to have easy, direct access to as much information as possible. Seabirds.net will act in this way; to allow quick, easy access to the global community about the status of seabirds worldwide.

The initiative by Scott Hatch has led to the formation of a team dedicated to the construction of Seabirds.net, including the content and design. The goal of this team will be to focus on the content and layout of Seabirds.net, and making it user-friendly.

The goals and timeframe as determined by the seabirds.net design committee are as follows:

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| 1) Set up a Google groups discussion forum | Complete |
| 2) Development of a user forum in Seabirds.net | ~ 4 months |
| 3) Development of a Global seabird researcher directory (GLOSRED??) | ~4-6 months |
| 4) Update the layout of seabirds.net to recommendations by community | ~6-10 months |
| 5) Development of a Student section of seabirds.net | ~13 months |
| 6) Movement of seabirds.net ownership to development team | ~15 months |
| 7) Continuation of various website development elements | up to 2 years |
| 8) Completion of website structure, with an appointed moderator | ~2 years |

Recommendations:

- 1) The World Seabird Consortium (or however such an organization will be named), designate a special position called “Webpage coordinator”, where the purpose of that position would be to ensure the maintenance of Seabirds.net.
- 2) To ensure that the WSC obtains the ability to make “on the fly” design changes to the website. Currently, the website is only accessible by Axiom Consulting and Design, and because they are a contracted firm, can only perform work on the designated contract, which is currently the interoperability of the databases. This in itself hinders the ability of the design team to act on many of the above elements.
- 3) To seek out individuals with experience in web design in order to help construct the website. This is a very important task as we wish the website to be maintained by seabird professionals for seabird professionals. Because the web is constantly changing, we wish to seek out people with advanced computer skills, particularly in the area of web design and programming.

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