

Distribution and Abundance Individual Tracking Sub-Group

Ellen Jedrey, Linda Welch, Melanie Steinkamp,
Pat Jodice, and Jennifer Arnold (Chris Dwyer)
Carolyn and Dick are putting geolocators on terns
this summer so keep them in the loop on this.

Question

What are the seasonal use patterns for marine birds in the Western Atlantic?

- **Foraging Ecology of Breeding Birds.**
- **Migratory Routes**
- **Immature usages**
- **Wintering ecology**

Purpose/Output/Rationale

- To investigate the habitat characteristics that the birds are selecting? (correlations with fisheries distributions (including harvest practices), physical oceanographic information, individual variation, etc.)
- To inform oil spill damage assessments
- To inform wind development
- To inform ships of opportunity studies

This is also an incredible outreach project

Actions Needed to Develop Proposal and Accomplish project

What	Who	When	Cost	Notes
Pro- Con- list of various devices (Geolocators, Satellite, GPS, TDRs)	Linda (with Melanie, Ellen, Pat, and Jennifer) (Bill M.)	March 15		
Select Representative Species	Linda, Melanie, Ellen, Pat, and Jennifer	May 15		
Study Design	Linda, Melanie, Ellen, Pat, and Jennifer	June 15	Devices 200-3000/ bird	When and where to put transmitters on, coordination with selected ship surveys, other data that can be collected with birds in hand, etc
Pricing out project	Linda, Melanie, Ellen, Pat, and Jennifer	June 15		Consider matching possibilities
Who will do it (grad student, post-doc, core group, etc.)	Linda, Melanie, Ellen, Pat, and Jennifer	June 15		Time, travel, salary

First Steps:

Who do we put transmitters on to get the information we want

Candidate species: Initial Criteria

1. Listing of critically important species from plan
2. Size appropriate for satellite transmitter
3. Pelagic nature of the species

Initial List

- Highest Concern:
 - Greater Shearwater
 - Audubon's Shearwater
- High Concern:
 - Cory's Shearwater
 - Razorbill
 - Northern Gannet
 - Manx Shearwater
- Moderate Concern:
 - Sooty shearwater
- Low:
 - Northern Fulmar
 - Masked-Booby

Selecting approximately 3 focal Species to allow us to address the relevant questions

1. Represent entire region
2. Birds for which we might get information on the entire life cycle
3. Birds that are only seasonally in the region
4. Birds that might give us information climate change (birds at extreme edge of range...Dick suggest this part is not necessary)
5. Whether we can get the transmitter back

Existing projects:

- Greater shearwaters
- Razorbills
- Long-tail Ducks (currently radio)
- Black-scooter
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Common Eider
- Gannets

Other items

A quick and dirty way to get at some of the information we are interested in involves possibly marking birds

We also decided that while we support focused smaller scale studies local use patterns and altitudes of birds for purposes of this group we needed to focus on the larger scale study