

Introduction to Linking Seabird Databases

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Abstract:

Datasets describing seabird metrics are geographically distributed in nature and fundamentally heterogeneous in storage formats and data structures. Strategies for integrating these data assets include a centralized approach (single master database) and a distributed approach (databases that sit in multiple locations but are linked to each other). The distributed approach provides several benefits to researchers and data users over the centralized approach. This talk introduces the concepts of interoperability (communicating data and meaning across heterogeneous data systems), demonstrates interoperability in action with distributed sources of seabird and other ecological data and provides a feasible solution for the management of distributed seabird data on a worldwide scale.