

## **Seabird At-Sea Survey Databases**

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### *Abstract:*

Data that describe the distribution and relative abundance of seabirds from pelagic surveys exist for all the world's oceans, but in a wide variety of formats, which inhibit their potential as conservation and research tools. Proposals to create a global database of at-sea survey data present a number of challenges, including the variety of survey methods used, differing data models, data quality issues, and seemingly fluid seabird taxonomy. Additionally, research groups and institutions differ in their policies and attitudes to data sharing. There are also technical challenges, not least those associated with the large volumes of data generated by these programs. The workshop will provide a review of existing projects and will explore the potential barriers to establishing a World Seabird Database. Invited speakers will draw on their experience to review how they have overcome the key problems in harmonizing disparate datasets. Presentations will focus on encouraging discussion to address the range and magnitude of the different challenges. The workshop will result in actions for individuals and groups to progress key work areas, and a document that reviews and summarizes the key challenges, and will present options for the World Seabird Database Committee to consider.