

Seabird Productivity Index

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Abstract:

Information on seabird productivity trends can be viewed using a simple web-based information network that accesses and displays information on a common platform to encourage data sharing and display over the Internet. The data portal provides access to immediate and remotely distributed information on seabird productivity trends. The objective is to provide a tool for seabird researchers to share information directly upon coming out of the field. It is also intended to be a rapid assessment tool allowing researchers and decision-makers to investigate current trends and patterns in seabird populations. The platform is easy to use and requires only a few clicks of the mouse to put your information on the web. Information can instantly be compared to other sites within particular regions, oceans and between oceans. The portal provides an immediate assessment of seabird colony conditions serving as an early warning system for widespread breeding failures. This information is of interest to seabird researchers, managers, the media and fisheries and oceanography practitioners who are using seabirds as effective indicators of marine conditions. A pilot prototype of this system, focused on the Arctic, will be presented. This pilot represents a joint effort between the Circumpolar Seabird Group, the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, the United Nations Environmental Program - World Conservation Monitoring Centre, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Geoconnections. Countries that are currently involved include: Canada, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Russia, Norway, Sweden, UK and US. The session will focus on highlighting this innovative tool, promoting broader participation from the global seabird research community and obtaining feedback on how to improve it.