

World Seabird Monitoring Database

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Abstract:

Seabirds are cost-effective indicators of large-scale change in the marine environment. The sensitivity of birds to ocean temperatures, weather, and climate, increases the relevance of seabird monitoring in an era when global climate change is an overarching concern. Implicit in the strategy of using seabirds as global indicators is a requirement for collective and shared availability of monitoring results to support open, synthetic, and interdisciplinary uses of the data. To realize fully the benefits of seabird monitoring worldwide, an Internet-based data management system is needed that is capable of timely and comprehensive dissemination of results. The prospective World Seabird Monitoring Database (WSMD) will collate time series of measured population parameters—numbers, productivity, survival, breeding chronology, and others. An important initial step in creating a global database is a comprehensive inventory of past and ongoing effort in seabird monitoring worldwide. Contributors to this workshop will have initiated such an inventory in advance of the meeting. Results will be presented in a series of brief regional reports and collated as one important product of the workshop, another being an action plan for achieving the goal of a global system. The workshop will include an introduction to the design of the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database (PSMD) and its web implementation, a potential model for the global effort.