

# PACIFIC SEABIRDS



A Publication of the Pacific Seabird Group

similarity between mates.

**Linda Elliott** (HWC) provided emergency response assistance for the avian botulism outbreak affecting the critically endangered Laysan Duck (*Anas laysanensis*) at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. The Laysan Ducks had been introduced to Midway

Workshop participants agreed on several urgent issues. Among these were:

- Research and model development are impeded by data availability and legal constraints; these problems need to be resolved.

## **SOUTH AMERICA AND THE ANTARCTIC**

Compiled from other reports

**Liliana Ayala** (Peruvian Association for the Conservation of Nature [APECO]) completed her albatross proj

ect during 2008. We conducted surveys of 18 long-line fisheries vessels from Paita to Salaverry. Seventeen vessels targeted common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), and one targeted blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*). During the 18 longline trips, we observed 381,521 hooks deployed in 171 sets; this is the largest observed effort today in Peru. The principal target of the vessels was common dolphinfish, because the shark season was poor in fall 2007. The days monitored per month varied from 6 to 35. Seabird bycatch by longline fishery vessels was assessed in 2006, 2007 and 2008 by direct observation. Seabirds were not reported as bycatch by any observer. However, this study is only 0.5% of the observation effort of all longline fishery efforts in Peru. Collaborators were **Samuel Amoros** (APECO), **Cynthia Cespedes** (National Institute of Natural Resources) and **Shaleyla Kelez** (Duke University). We participated in the Fourth International Albatross and Petrel Congress with a poster: Catch and Bycatch of Albatross and Petrel in Peru. The project was funded by Ruffrod Small Grants, Idea Wild, Duke Marine Center and Oak foundation. The work on bycatch permitted our participation in the Peruvian Report on implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

Research on the conservation of the Humboldt Penguin in Huarmey, on the central coast of Peru, is being undertaken by **Raul Sanchez-Scaglioni** (APECO) and **L. Ayala**. We reported at least 292 penguins in the study area, with higher numbers along the northern coast of Peru. Furthermore, we interviewed 35 fishermen; 63% said that they had eaten penguins at some time, 70% said that there are fewer penguins than there were years ago, and 86% know that penguins are threatened. In addition, we are looking at ways to gain the attention of authorities to manage or protect the Humboldt Penguin nesting sites. This project is funded by the mining company Antamina.

**L. Ayala** and **R. Sanchez-Scaglioni** also are finishing a series of seabird conservation videos for the general public with direct and simple language. These videos are about conservation projects of the Marine-Coastal Program in APECO, such as "Albatross: Endangered Air and Sea Giant," "Where are the Humboldt Penguins?," and "The Mysterious Peruvian Storm-Petrel."

**R. Sanchez-Scaglioni**, **L. Ayala** and **L. Felipe** developed a project on predation, weather, microclimate and nest site selection in an Antarctic Tern (*Sterna vittata*) colony, King George Island. The objective was to know if Antarctic Terns choose nest sites with similar conditions. We participated in the Latin-American Symposium of Antarctic Research with the poster: Microclimatic conditions in nesting sites of Antarctic Tern and Antarctic Skua (*Catharacta antarctica*), King George Island. Under the conditions of our study, nest sites were not chosen by thermal characteristics of the air, humidity, and soil. This project was funded by the INANPE (Peruvian Antarctic Institute).

**David Ainley** (HT Harvey Assoc./Penguin science), **Chris Ribic** (University of Wisconsin), **Bill Fraser** (Polar Ocean Research Group), **Eric Woehler** (University of Tasmania), **Glenn Ford** (RG Ford Consulting), and **Cyndy Tynan** (Research Scientists of Woods Hole) have summarized almost all the cruise data collected in the Southern Ocean (including the Pacific Sector) since the late 1970s, and are relating seabird patterns to large-scale fronts and water masses. This work has been funded by National Science Foundation as part of U.S. Southern Oceans Global Oceans Ecosystems Dynamics Program.

**David Ainley** and **John Weller** are using private funding to organize a workshop about the Ross Sea, the last pristine high-seas ecosystem on Earth, for the International Marine Conservation Congress, Washington, D.C. (May 2009). In the meantime, we have barraged the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living

Resources (CCAMLR) with a series of white papers detailing the importance of Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*; also called Chilean sea bass) to the Ross Sea ecosystem, to the degree that CCAMLR has agreed to pay more attention. Through the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, a proposal has been submitted to CCAMLR about Marine Protected Area status for the Ross Sea. The issue has been taken up and supported by The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, as well as the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, along with other non-government organizations, as a prime area in need of protection.

**Ainley** and associates have begun the 13th season of a demographic study of Adelie Penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) at Ross and Beaufort Island, Ross Sea. Co-principal investigators are **Katie Dugger**, Oregon State University, and **Grant Ballard**, Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The goal is to explain population trajectories in the Ross Sea sector of the Southern Ocean. This work is being funded by the National Science Foundation.

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## NORTH ATLANTIC

Compiled from other reports

**Nina Karnovsky** (Pomona College) and two undergraduate students, **Julia Gleichman** and **Derek Young**, and one alumna, **Laurel McFadden**, studied the foraging behavior of Dovekies (*Alle alle*) in Hornsund Fjord, Spitsbergen. They assessed the oceanographic conditions adjacent to the colony during at-sea surveys aboard the R/V *Oceania*. They made measurements of diets and reproductive success and chick growth at the colony. They determined the lengths of foraging trips through observations of marked birds and with passive integrated transponders (PIT tags), and they placed time-depth recorders on foraging adults