

Summary of SEAPRE I Meeting
May 12-16, 2007
Big Cedar Lodge, Branson, Missouri

Note: This is a condensed version of a longer summary available in the “Members Only” section of the website. You may also contact the coordinators for more information (see contact information at bottom of page).

I. SEAPRE goals

- Immediate:
 - i. Cross-system comparisons
 - ii. Identification and reduction of large gaps in the information required for comparisons
 - iii. Production of an edited multi-author book focused on seabirds, their predators, and effects of both on islands
 - iv. Enhancement of student training opportunities
- Long-term
 - i. Development of a database with multi-system information
 - ii. Synthesis of data from multiple systems
 - iii. Production of multi-system comparison manuscripts
 - iv. Enhancement of public understanding of seabird islands and effects of seabird predators, and increasing public involvement in conservation and restoration efforts.

II. Meeting goals

- Become familiar with each other’s island systems and the datasets available
- Discuss potential for combining datasets as they currently exist in different research areas
- Produce general book outline and list of potential contents
- Build ideas for video content and initial interviews with videographer
- Produce short-term (1-year) goals

III. Participants

There were 17 core participants present at this meeting plus one core remote participant and three local graduate students. *Contact information for all participants can be found under the “Partners” section of the SEAPRE website.*

- Christa Mulder (University of Alaska Fairbanks; principal coordinator)
- Wendy Anderson (Drury University; co-coordinator)
- Julie Ellis (Tufts U)
- Peter Bellingham (Landcare Research, New Zealand)
- Vernon Byrd (USFWS, Alaska)
- Don Croll (UC Santa Cruz, remote participation)
- Don Drake (U. Hawai’i)
- Aaron Hoffman (Scientific Media Outreach, in charge of video production)
- Erin McCreless (UC Santa Cruz)
- Matthew McKown (U North Carolina Chapel Hill)
- Gina Mori (National Audubon Society)

- Jo Smith (U. Washington)
- Carey Suehs (Mediterranean Institute for Ecology, France)
- Dave Towns (Dept of Conservation, New Zealand)
- Alexander Wait (Missouri State)
- Alex Wegmann U. Hawai'i)
- Carlos Zavalega (U. North Carolina)
- Beth Dalrymple, Gene Denbow, Becky (Missouri State graduate students)

DAY 1: SUNDAY

IV. Steering Committee Meeting

The Steering Committee (Mulder, Anderson, Byrd, Drake, Bellingham, Towns, Ellis) met briefly at the start of the meeting. We discussed the following:

- Website
- Location and timing of next meeting.
- SEAPRE book
- Junior Scientist Exchange Program

V. Island Systems Represented.

The full meeting began with an introduction by all participants to the systems in which they work. All presentations included information on the geography and climate, natural history of the vegetation, seabirds, and introduced predators, and information on the type of research being conducted and the project participants. There were xx powerpoint presentations by those present plus one by Susanne Schmidt, who was not presented but included a recording. *These slideshows are available under the "Members Only" section of the SEAPRE website.*

The following systems were represented at the meeting:

Northern Pacific:

- Aleutian Islands, Alaska (Byrd)
- Queen Charlotte Islands, Canada (Smith)
- Desert Islands, Mexico (Anderson & Wait)

Southern Pacific:

- Hawai'ian Islands (Drake)
- Juan Fernandez Islands, Chile (Smith, McKnown)
- Northern New Zealand islands (Mulder, Bellingham, Towns)
- Remote South Pacific Islands (Wegmann; Towns)
- Australian Reef Islands (Schmidt)

Atlantic: Northeast Temperate islands, Maine, New Hampshire (Ellis, Zavalega, Mori)

Mediterranean: French Mediterranean Islands (Suehs)

Indian Ocean: French "Scattered" Islands, Indian Ocean (Suehs)

VI. Video outreach

A discussion of the video outreach project was led by our videographer, Aaron Hoffman. The discussion focused on the purpose of the video (who were we trying to reach, and why?), and Aaron distributed a survey to get a better feeling for this. We also discussed how to obtain more footage from field sites. This discussion was continued at dinner on Tuesday evening.

Aaron conducted interviews with several people who may not be present at future meetings. Several mechanisms to obtain more footage were developed:

1. We will use SEAPRE money to buy some video cameras for loan to anyone going in the field who is willing to contribute footage (*these have now been purchased*)
2. Aaron will write a short manual on best practices for obtaining such footage (*this is now available on the Members Only section of the website*)

DAY TWO: MONDAY

VII. Working Group Outcomes

Participants were divided into three working groups organized around impacts of seabirds and seabird predators among taxa on Monday morning, and into three working groups focused on different processes in the afternoon. Each group was provided with a set of questions relevant to their particular topic and tasked with answering the following for each of the questions:

- a. Identify potential areas for synthesis across studies
- b. Identify information lacking and how to obtain it
- c. Identify needs for common research methods
- d. Identify short-term (1-year) goals

Working groups were as follows:

Group A: Seabird Biology

Group B: Terrestrial animals

Group C: Changes in Plant Composition: Species Losses and Invasions

Group D: Ecosystem Processes

Group E: Impacts on foodwebs / community structure

Group F: Human impacts / public education / conservation

DAY THREE : TUESDAY

IV. Whole-Group Meeting: Goals and Implementation Plans

The whole group came back together to discuss the results of each of the working group discussions and to determine a plan of action for the coming year . The following topics were discussed:

- A. Creating a central database on what data are available from each group
- B. Additional expertise needed in the group
- C. Opportunities for cross-system comparisons
- D. Book outline generation
- E. Short-term (1-year) goals
 1. Book
 2. Manuscript production
 3. Protocol development
 4. Junior Exchange Program applicant selection
- F. Additions to the website