

## SUMMARY of SEAPRE II May 16-19, 2008

The second annual SEAPRE meeting was held on Appledore Island, Maine, on May 16-19, 2008. There were 21 participants (representing 13 systems) who came from as far away as Australia and Japan. The group was a mix of academics, graduate students, and managers working for federal / national agencies.

**New systems:** Four new systems were introduced to the group as a whole: 1) Cook Strait Islands in New Zealand; 2) Rathlin Island in Northern Ireland; 3) Lake Biwa and Kanmura Islands, Japan; and 4) Stockholm Archipelago, Sweden. There were the usual “oohs” and “ahs” during the presentation, and everyone was particularly excited about the addition of two more tree-nesting seabird systems - along with the Reef Islands (Australia) we now have three of those in the network. Pictures will be made available shortly (see “Interactive Map”)

**SEAPRE book:** The main focus of the meeting was on putting together the expanded outline of the book that we expect to be one of the primary products of this network. Over the course of three days we managed to hash out the general structure of the book, along with details of the contents and, most importantly, what types of systems could be contributing data to what chapters and how we might be able to analyze them. The result of this effort can be found in the document labeled “SEAPRE book description and outline”. We have now submitted a full book proposal to a publisher that includes expanded outlines. If you are interested in contributing to any of these chapters but are not yet involved, please contact Christa ([ffcpm2@uaf.edu](mailto:ffcpm2@uaf.edu)) or Wendy ([wanderso@drury.edu](mailto:wanderso@drury.edu)) for more information.

**Protocols:** Another task that we initiated (and that will become a major focus in the third year) is the development of standard protocols for standard measurements, both to increase the comparability of our own data and to provide information to managers. While seabird density, soil, and vegetation descriptions are the obvious variables for which protocols are needed, the protocols will be heavily dependent on what the measurements will be used for. To determine what the greatest need is, Christa, Julie and Linda will develop a short questionnaire to be sent to both basic researchers and managers.

**SEAPRE presence at meetings:** We'll be presenting results from our cross-system comparisons at various meetings in the near future. Those will likely include the Ecological Society of America (August 2009), the INTECOL meeting in Brisbane, Australia or the Society for Ecological Restoration in Perth (both also in August 2009). We also hope to organize a symposium or something similar for the World Seabird Meeting (Victoria, British Columbia, September 2010). This meeting can also serve a final SEAPRE get-together, and ties in well with our focus (during the third year) on restoration and conservation strategies for seabird islands.

Due to poor timing (most island managers are in the field in May) we delayed the general meeting we had hoped to have along with SEAPRE II. However, one of our participants (Linda Welch) will be attending the GOMSWG (Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group) meeting in August 2008, and introduce SEAPRE to island managers. We will aim to have a larger meeting with more managers at the next SEAPRE meeting

**Video project:** development of the outreach video is ongoing. SEAPRE has three video cameras available that can be borrowed for people heading out into the field who are willing to take footage. Aaron (our outreach coordinator) is also always looking for more people to interview, particularly managers and others involved in restoration (including members of the public).

**Developing an informational database:** we discussed the possibilities for developing an informational database that would be of use to both SEAPRE participants and to island managers. This could include an annotated bibliography, a list of experts in various areas related to seabird island ecology, access to protocols for basic measurements (both existing and new), and links to useful websites for island management purposes.

**SEAPRE III:** We are already planning our next meeting. It looks likely that this will be held in April 2009 on the West Coast of the US – most likely in California. Information will be available on the website as soon as plans have firmed up.

**SEAPRE, PART B?** We have also been discussing requesting funding for an extension of SEAPRE. This would almost certainly include a more interdisciplinary approach. Two logical options are to include paleoecologists, archeologists, and anthropologists to gain a better understanding of the deeper history of and recent human impacts on our islands, and to increase the focus on the land-sea interface by including more marine biologists, including phycologists, intertidal ecologists, etc.