

**FEDERAL AID
INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
State Wildlife Grant**

Grant Number: T-3 **Segment Number: 1**
Project Number: 2.11
Project Title: Northern Bristol Bay seabird survey
Project Duration: July 1, 2006 – December 31, 2008
Report Period: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008
Report Due Date: September 30, 2008
Principal Investigator: Joe Meehan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Project Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: Conduct a population survey of select nesting seabirds in all of northern Bristol Bay including the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge to:

JOB/ACTIVITY 1A: Assess changes in population levels over the past 20 years.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1B: Establish a reliable baseline level of nesting populations to assess future environmental impacts.

Summary of Project Accomplishments

OBJECTIVE 1: A second boat-based survey of colonial ledge-nesting seabirds was conducted in July 2008. All previously documented colonies in the study area were surveyed as were all new colonies encountered. Digital photographs were taken at all colonies concentrating on the following species: black-legged kittiwakes, common murre, glaucous-winged gulls, pelagic cormorants and double-crested cormorants. In addition, field counts were made in colonies that consisted of only cormorant species.

The photographs were merged to create one comprehensive image of the colony and we counted each species of seabird in the digital photographs using ARC GIS software. During this reporting period, we finished the counts from the remaining 2006 survey colonies and completed approximately one-third of the colonies from the 2007 survey.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1A: This assessment will be made after data from the 2006 and 2007 surveys is compiled and analyzed.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1B: The 2006 and 2007 survey data will be added to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Seabird Colony Catalog and will serve as a baseline of population levels to use for future comparisons.

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