



Dear Colleague,

An International Symposium on "Seabirds as Indicators of Change in Marine Ecosystems" is being held as part of the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG), which will occur February 16-18, 2006, at the Alyeska Ski Resort in Girdwood, Alaska, just south of the city of Anchorage.

The PSG Announcement and Call for Papers has been posted on the web: <http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org/mtg.html>

The purpose of the symposium is to critically examine specific questions about how seabirds indicate conditions in marine ecosystems. We will draw upon the expertise of invited speakers from around the globe, and from PSG members attending the meeting who wish to contribute to the symposium. The symposium will take place over all three days of the PSG meeting, but will include several keynote speakers and a hosted lunch on the first day. There will be a workshop for invited participants on the last day.

We have identified three broad themes in using seabirds as indicators of marine ecosystems: (1) Indicators of forage fish and plankton ecology, (2) Indicators of marine habitat quality, and, (3) Indicators of cyclic climate change and global warming. In addressing these themes, we are asking participants to critically evaluate the role of one or more species of seabirds as indicators.

This symposium is being supported by the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB), and represents one step in their efforts to develop an integrated marine research strategy for Alaska. Our goal is to develop an agenda for research on marine birds and to identify specific research strategies that would contribute to the mission of the NPRB, "to build a clear understanding of North Pacific ecosystems that enables effective management and sustainable use of marine resources". Talks and posters presented at the symposium will help guide us as we develop a research agenda. We plan to publish some of the papers presented at this PSG symposium and important conclusions of the symposium will be incorporated into the NPRB research strategy.

We welcome participation of colleagues in other marine science disciplines, particularly those with interest in fish and wildlife research programs in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. If you are interested in attending for one or more days, you can register on-line at the PSG address above.



If you have any questions about the Seabirds as Indicators (SAI) symposium, or the PSG Annual Meeting, please call any of the following SAI organizers (SAIo) and collaborators:

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