



Circumpolar Seabird Group

CBird XVI

**Tofino, British Columbia, Canada
13 September – 16 September 2010**

Meeting Report

September 2010



Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

Circumpolar Seabird Group

CBird XVI

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I. Executive Summary

The concept of a Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird) was approved by CAFF in 1993 in recognition that Arctic countries have many seabird species in common and often share the same populations and conservation issues, and therefore share a joint and equal responsibility for their conservation. This was CBird's 16th meeting and in the past 16 years CBird has been instrumental in addressing and raising the visibility of priority circumpolar Arctic seabird conservation issues. It has published three Conservation Action Plans (Murres, Eiders, and Ivory Gulls), several CAFF Technical Reports, three posters, 15 Progress Reports, and participated in numerous meetings and workshops. CBird is one of the species groups for the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program. CBird has been successful in meeting its objectives because the members are united and focused on their desire to conserve Arctic seabirds and realize that there is synergy in bringing experts from all Arctic countries together to address pressing circumpolar issues such as climate change. CBird meets once a year to ensure progress is made on their action items and projects.

CBird conducted its 16th meeting in Tofino, British Columbia, Canada 13 to 16 September 2010. The meeting followed the 1st World Seabird Conference, which was held in Victoria, British Columbia, 7 to 11 September and was attended by the CBird representatives. In fact the work of the Circumpolar Seabird Group was used as a model on how to move forward with several global seabird projects. At the Tofino meeting, we had seabird specialists and managers representing the eight Arctic countries, and an official observer from UK along with several interested local attendees. CBird primarily focused its attention on the following issues: preparing the deliverables for the upcoming CAFF biennial meeting, Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database, Seabird Information Network, and Circumpolar Seabird Population Trend Indices. Funding for the Seabird Information Network and Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database was recently obtained and promises to speed the completion of these projects. For more details please see the Meeting Report that follows and the CAFF website www.caff.is/ for the complete CBird XVI Meeting Report with all appendices attached.

II. CAFF/Circumpolar Seabird Group Work Plan, 2009-2011, Progress in 2009-2010

A. Conserving Arctic Species

1. International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy

Action: Countries continued implementing applicable action items in the CAFF report “International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy” ” and related national action plans, and report progress at CBird meetings.

Lead: Canada-Grant Gilchrist/Norway-Hallvard Strom

2. Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy

Action: Countries continued implementing applicable action items in the CAFF report “Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan Countries” and related national action plans, and report progress at CBird meetings.

Lead: Canada-Grant Gilchrist

3. Circumpolar Murre Conservation Strategy

Action: Countries continued implementing applicable action items in the CAFF report “International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan” and related national implementation plans, and report progress at CBIRD meetings.

Lead: US-David Irons

Action: Thick-billed Murre population model for the Atlantic Region has been delayed.

Lead: Canada-Greg Robertson

4. Seabird Harvest in the Arctic

Action: Countries continued to report on seabird harvest and implementation of applicable recommendations in CAFF Technical Report No. 16 at CBird meetings.

Lead: Greenland-Flemming Merkel

5. Seabird Bycatch in Commercial Fisheries in the Arctic

Action: All countries continued to report on seabird bycatch initiatives including implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization/Committee on Fisheries International Plan of Action to Reduce Seabird Bycatch in Longline Fisheries of the World and related national implementation plans.

Lead: US-David Irons

B. Conserving Arctic Ecosystems and Habitats

No CBird recommendations at this time.

C. Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity

1. Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program and the Marine Integrated Monitoring Plan

Action: CBird has participated in the CAFF Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program and assisted in developing and reviewing the Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan.

Lead: CBird

Action: The progress on the circumpolar seabird monitoring plan has been delayed.

Lead: US-David Irons UK- Jim Reid

2. Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern.

This is no longer a CBird project following a CAFF board decision in Akureyri in October 2009.

3. Circumpolar Seabird Status and Trends Report

Action: This report on the status and trends of Arctic seabirds is in progress and a draft will be completed by September 25, 2010, a review will be completed by October 10, 2010 and the final report will be completed by November 1, 2010.

Lead: Iceland-Aevar Petersen/US-David Irons

4. Seabird Information Network

Action: The Seabird Information Network will be online by October 1 at that time there will be a Seabird Productivity Index and the Circumpolar Seabird Colony Register Database and will be on the web in at seabirds.net and on the CBMP website.

Lead: US-David Irons

5. Circumpolar seabird colony database

Action: We have made progress in producing an online circumpolar seabird colony database. It will be online by October 1, 2010, at that time we will have the north Pacific seabird data online and will expand that to other circumpolar areas by February 1, 2011, and will be on the web in at seabirds.net and on the CBMP website.

Lead Norway-Strom/US-Irons/Canada-Gilchrist

6. Glaucous Gull Decline Paper

CAFF, Circumpolar Seabird Group, CBird XVI, Tofino, British Columbia, Canada

Action: The paper for peer-reviewed journal on the decline of Glaucous Gulls in the Arctic is in progress, a draft will be completed by September 17, 2010, review will be completed by October 10, 2010 and the final report will be completed by December 1, 2010.

Lead: Iceland-Aevar Petersen

7. Circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake Status and Trends

Action: Funding was applied for in Norway to hire person to work on paper and update data, but it was not obtained, we discussed other funding options and will try to obtain funding again, update data and also ask Sebastian Descamps of Norway, if he would like to lead this project.

Lead: Norway-Tycho Anker-Nilssen/US-David Irons

8. Murre, Eider and Harvest Arctic Biodiversity Assessments Arctic 2010 Biodiversity Highlights Reports, ABA Seabird Chapter and Murre Arctic Report Card.

Action: Murre and Eider Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010 Reports were completed.

Lead: Canada-Tony Gaston, Grant Gilchrist, Greenland-Fleming Merkel

Action: A harvest Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010 Report was completed.

Lead: Greenland-Fleming Merkel

Action: Seabird Arctic Biodiversity Assessment Draft Chapter was written and is being reviewed.

Lead: Canada-Tony Gaston, Barbara Ganter

Action: A murre Arctic report card was completed.

Lead: Canada-Tony Gaston, Grant Gilchrist

9. Thick-billed Murre North Atlantic geolocator study

Action: A study was initiated and it was decided to submit a proposal to the Nordic Council to purchase geolocators to expand the study and fill in data gaps.

Lead: Greenland-Anders Mosbech

D. Global Issues

1. CBirdSTAMP Project

Action: Wait for decision from CAFF on whether to implement CBirdSTAMP project as a joint CAFF/AMAP project.

Lead: US-David Irons

2. Arctic Tern Project

Action: A paper on the migration of Arctic Terns was written and published.

Lead: Greenland-Carsten Egevang

E. Engaging Society

1. Continue updating the CAFF CBird Website

Action: CBird documents have been put on the CAFF website.

Lead: CAFF Secretariat

2. World Seabird Conference

Action: CBird members attended the 1st World Seabird Conference in conjunction with 25 other seabird groups. Many of the CBird projects were used as examples of what could be accomplished at the global scale.

Lead: US-David Irons

III. Circumpolar Seabird Group Work Plan Recommendations: 2011-2013

1. Monitoring

a) Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Network of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Action: Participate in the CAFF Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program as the Coordinator of the Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Network.

Lead: US-David Irons

Schedule:

Ongoing

Action: Complete a circumpolar seabird monitoring plan.

Lead: US-David Irons UK- Jim Reid

Schedule:

CBird XVII

b) Circumpolar Seabird Information Network (SIN)

Action: Create a Seabird Population Trend Index on the web within the Seabird Information Network (SIN) in conjunction with CBMP.

Lead: US-David Irons

Schedule: Online version

February 1, 2011

Action: Continue to add data to the online circumpolar seabird colony register within the Seabird Information Network (SIN).

Lead Norway-Strom/US-Irons/Canada-Gilchrist

Schedule:

CBird XVII

2. Assessments

a) Glaucous Gull Decline Paper

Action: Write paper for peer-reviewed journal on the decline of Glaucous Gulls in the Arctic.

Lead: Iceland-Aevar Petersen

Schedule: Draft paper

CBird XVI

b) Circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake Status and Trends

Action: Update the contributed data set and ask Sebastian Descamps to and analyze data collected in circumpolar countries on kittiwake population trends and productivity.

Lead: Norway-Rob Barrett/Tycho Anker-Nilssen/US-David Irons

Schedule:

CBird XVII

c) Thick-billed Murre North Atlantic geolocator study

Action: We are going to submit a proposal to the Nordic Council to purchase geolocators to expand the study and fill in data gaps.

Lead: Denmark-Anders Mosbech

Schedule:

CBird XVII

d) Murre banding recovery analyses.

Action: Conduct analyses and prepare drafts of two papers on murre banding recoveries.

Lead: Norway and Iceland????

Schedule:

CBird XVII

Action: Get an update from Greg on the status of the Thick-billed Murre population model for the Atlantic Region.

Lead: Canada-Greg Robertson

Schedule:

CBird XVII

e) Seabird Harvest in the Arctic

Action: Countries will continue to report on seabird harvest and implementation of applicable recommendations in CAFF Technical Report No. 5.

Lead: Greenland-Flemming Merkel

Schedule:

CBird XVII

f) Seabird Gillnet Bycatch in Commercial Fisheries in the Arctic

Action: All countries will continue to report on seabird bycatch initiatives including implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization/Committee on Fisheries International Plan of Action to Reduce Seabird Bycatch in Longline Fisheries of the World and related national implementation plans.

Lead: US-David Irons

Schedule:

CBird XVII

g) Ivory Gull Status Report Card

Action: Write an Arctic Report Card on the status of ivory gulls.

Lead: Canada-Grant Gilchrist

Schedule:

CBird XVII

3. Conservation Strategies

a) Circumpolar Murre Conservation Strategy

Action: Countries will continue implementing applicable action items in the CAFF report “International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan” and related national implementation plans, and report progress at CBIRD meetings every third year, by completing a matrix of the progress on the action items listed in the strategy and a summary of new initiatives.

Lead: Norway-Rob Barrett

Schedule:

CBird XVII 2011

b) Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy

Action: Countries will continue implementing applicable action items in the CAFF report “Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan Countries” and related national action plans, and report progress at CBird meetings every third year, by completing a matrix of the progress on the action items listed in the strategy and a summary of new initiatives.

Lead: Canada-Grant Gilchrist

Schedule:

CBird XVIII 2012

c) International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy

Action: Countries involved will implement the “International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy” and related national action plans and report progress at CBird meetings every third year, by completing a matrix of the progress on the action items listed in the strategy and a summary of new initiatives.

Lead: Canada-Grant Gilchrist/Norway-Hallvard Strom

Schedule:

CBird XIX 2013

4. Methods and Tools

a) Net Gun for capturing birds

Action: Make information on where to get the net gun and how to modify it for capturing birds available on “seabirds.net”.

Lead: US-David Irons

Schedule:

March1, 2011

5. International Coordination

a) Arctic Tern Project

Action: Write a status and trends report on the Arctic Tern.

Lead: Greenland-Carsten Egevang

Schedule:

CBird XVII

6. Communication and Outreach

a) Continue updating the CAFF CBird Website

Action: Put CBird documents on website

Lead: CAFF Secretariat

Schedule:

CBird XVII

IV. Summary of Deliverables for the CAFF 2009-2011 Work Plan

- a. Complete CAFF Technical report on the status and trends of circumpolar seabirds. - *Lead: Iceland /United States***
- b. Complete peer-reviewed paper on Arctic Tern Migration. - *Lead: Greenland***
- c. Complete CAFF Technical report on the status and trends for Arctic seabirds for The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). - *Lead: Iceland***
- d. Complete CAFF technical report on the structure and organization of the Circumpolar Seabird Information network. - *Lead: United States***

V. Discussion of New Issues

Conservation Strategy for Black-legged Kittiwakes

Peer-reviewed paper on the world status of Ivory Gulls

Peer-reviewed paper on the change in circumpolar seabird phenology in relation to climate change

Create a circumpolar seabird phenology database

Summarize information on seabirds as indicators of change in the marine ecosystem in easy to use and update format – discuss at CBird XVII

Index to Arctic seabird health using blood parameters – discuss at CBird XVII

Highlight endangered or red-listed species on SIN, have font in different color and add function to map all red-listed species.

Information on Net Gun for use to catch seabirds.

Advanced Weapons Technology

Super Talon Net Gun

Contact Dan Sherman

48290 Vista Calico, Suite A

La Quinta, CA 92253

Tel: (760) 777-7229

Fax: (760) 777-9930

Email: info@lawenforcementmall.com

Youtube instructional video (for the older style net gun) by Jeremy Irons at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywoJAnTgrmw&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1

VI. Future Circumpolar Seabird Group Meetings

It was proposed that the next Circumpolar Seabird Group Meeting be in Finland in September 2011 and have the next meeting in the US in Alaska in September 2012.

Lead: US-David Irons

Schedule: Finland
 US

**Sept 2011
Sept 2012**

VII. List of Participants

**List of Participants, CBird XVI, Tofino, British Columbia, Canada
13 September – 16 September 2010**

Name	Institute/address	email
Jens Bagger	Government of Greenland Agency of fisheries & agriculture Postbox 680, 3900 Nuuk	jeba@ghsdk.dk
Carsten Egevang	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources Kivioq 2, Postbox 570, 3900 Nuuk, Greenland	cep@dmu.dk
Aili Lage Labansen	Kivioq 2, Postbox 570, 3900 Nuuk, Greenland Greenland Institute of Natural Resources	aili@natur.gl
Flemming Merkel	National Environmental Research Institute Frederiksborgvej 399, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark	fme@dmu.dk
Anders Mosbech	National Environmental Research Institute Frederiksborgvej 399, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark	amo@dmu.dk
Martti Hario	Finnish Game & Fisheries Research Institute	martti.hario@rktl.fi
Maria Gavrilov	Arctic & Antarctic Res. Inst. 38 Bering St, St. Petersburg, Russia 199397	m_gavrilov@mail.ru
Hallvard Strom	No-7485, Tromsø, Norway Norwegian Polar Institute Polar Environmental Centre N-9296 TROMSØ, Norway	hallvard.strom@npolar.no

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Morten Ekker	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management N-7485 Trondheim, Norway	morten.ekker@dirnat.no
Tycho Anker-Nilssen	Norwegian Polar Institute for Nature Research	tycho@nina.no
Lars Rasmussen	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources	lara@natur.gl
Grant Gilchrist	Environment Canada, National wildlife Research Centre, 1125 Colonel by Dane, Raven Road, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, KIA OH3	grant.gilchrist@ec.gc.ca
Aevar Petersen	Icelandic Int. of Natural History, Hlemmur 3, Po Box 5320, 125 Reykjavík, Iceland	aevar@ni.is
Jim Reid	Joint Nature Conservation Committee Dunnet House, 7Thistle place, Aberdeeb ABIO IU2, Scotland	jim.reid@jncc.gov.uk
David Irons	US Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011E, Tudor Rd, Anchorage AK, US 99503	david_irons@fws.gov
Tony Gaston	Environment Canada, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada KIA OH3	tony.gaston.ec.gc.ca
Rob Barrett	Tromso University Museum	rob.barrett@uit.no
Michael Svoboda	Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program	michael.svoboda@ec.gc.ca

Mark Hipfner	Environment Canada	mark.hipfner@ec.gc.ca
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VIII. Appendices

1. Agenda

CBird XVI Meeting Agenda

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
CIRCUMPOLAR SEABIRD GROUP
Tofino, British Columbia, Canada
13-16 September, 2010
CBird XVI

12 Sept	Sunday Arrival in Tofino via bus from Victoria, BC	
13 Sept	Monday	<u>Session</u> <u>Facilitator</u>
900	<u>Welcome</u> Introductions/Adoption of Agenda Arctic Council and CAFF update CBird Work Plan 09-11	<u>Gilchrist</u> Gilchrist Petersen Irons
1030	Coffee Break	All
	<u>Introduce New Initiatives for CBird Work Plan</u> Seabird Population Index	<u>Olsen</u> Irons
1200	Lunch	All
1300	<u>NEW Issues in Country Status Reports</u> New Issues by Country	<u>Strom</u> All
1500	Coffee Break	All
	<u>Status of Deliverables - Updates</u> ABA Highlights Reports ABA Seabird Chapter Circumpolar Seabird Status and Trends	<u>Anker-Nillson</u> Gilchrist/Gaston Gaston Petersen

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	Report	
	Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database:	Strom/Gilchrist/Irons
	Glaucous Gull Decline Paper	Petersen
	Murre population model for the Atlantic Report	Gilchrist/Robertson
	Arctic Report Card on murres and climate change	Gaston
	Seabird Information Network (SIN)	Svoboda/Irons
14 Sept	Tuesday	
900	<u>Status of Ongoing Projects</u>	<u>Merkel</u>
	Circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake Status & Trends-Discussion	Anker-Nielsen
	Kitiwake Geolocator Update	Peterson
	Ivory Gull Strategy and Status	Gavrilo
1030	Coffee	All
	Species Strategies and Reports - IVGU, eiders, murres	Gilchrist/Peterson
	Nordic Seabird Action Plan	Petersen
1200	Lunch	
1300	<u>Special Topics</u>	<u>Ekker</u>
	Status: Circumpolar seabird monitoring plan	Irons
	Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)	Svoboda
1500	Coffee Break	
	Seabirds on the West Coast	Mark Hipfner Guest Speaker
15 Sept	Wednesday	
900	<u>Work Topics</u>	<u>Mosbech</u>
	Seabird Information Network (SIN) and CMBP	Svoboda/Irons
	Marine Protected Areas	Merkel/Mosbech
1030	Coffee Break	
	<u>Work Topics</u>	<u>Reid</u>
	Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database	Strom/Irons
	Coordinated N. Atl. Thick-billed Murre geolocator banding prog.	Mosbech

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1200	Lunch	
1300	<u>Work Topics - continued</u>	<u>Reid</u>
	Continuation of previous discussions	All
	Identifying new group writing tasks	All
1500	Coffee Break	
	<u>CBird Work Plan Recommendations</u>	<u>Irons</u>
	Follow-up, CBird Work Plan New Initiatives	Irons
	Finish Old Business	Irons
	Review and Summarize CBird Work Plan/2011 deliverables	Irons
	Next Meetings	All
	CBird 2011 - Homer or St. Paul, AK	Irons
	Adjourn	
16 Sept	Thursday	
900	Excursion	Gilchrist
	Boat trip to Hot Springs	
17 Sept	Friday	
930	Depart from Tofino to Victoria via bus	

2. List of CBird Products

3. List of CBird Meetings

Reports can be found at the CAFF website www.caff.is/