History…

The idea of conducting a rangewide breeding survey was first presented two years ago at the working group meeting in MA.

In 2011, reps from 13 states (MA – TX) completed an online questionnaire to gauge level of interest in participating a rangewide breeding survey that would also include a resighting component.

All 13 states said YES to the survey.

12/13 states agreed to include resighting.

All states would likely require some level of funding.

Survey planning committee was formed at the 2011 working group meeting. Outcomes from first committee meeting:

The survey needs to be well-designed with specific objectives that meet both state and rangewide research/conservation needs - would require assistance from a statistician.

Encourage rangewide participation in the survey (i.e., all areas that support breeding populations)

Positive Update…

February 2012 - Planning committee agreed to having new student assist with the design an analysis of the rangewide breeding and resighting survey.

Planning committee also developed two survey overarching objectives.

Rangewide Breeding Survey Objective #1

Determine the number and distribution of oystercatcher breeding pairs by surveying all suitable breeding habitat.

a. To better define breeding habitat characteristics and associated threats;
b. Identify important nesting areas to help direct future mangt., conservation and productivity monitoring efforts;
c. Continue to collect breeding trend information among those states that have conducted comprehensive AMOY surveys in past years;
d. To build support among states' partners .

Rangewide Breeding Survey Objective #2

Document the number, spatial distribution, age and breeding status of marked individuals during the nesting season by incorporating a complete resighting effort in the rangewide breeding survey.

To assess survival, age at first breeding, post-natal dispersal patterns and migratory connectivity of oystercatchers banded throughout the range.

Positive Update cont….

Beth Gardner successfully recruited a student, who will begin his Ph.D. fellowship at NC State in January 2013.

-Assist with the design and/or analyses of the rangewide breeding/resighting survey;
-Begin tackling the analyses of the massive capture and re-sight database in partnership with the Oystercatcher Working Group.

Buy in from Canadian Maritimes and Gulf states

Less Positive update…

Funding outlook/opportunities uncertain…