

Future Directions and Priorities

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE

- Using results of online survey and group feedback here, conduct a 'gut check' on the Working Group's current goals, objectives, functions and role. Brainstorm about future directions and priorities.

PROCESS

- Review Group feedback on most important functions
- Review current goals and objectives from Position Paper
 - Group feedback on goals, objectives
 - Discuss revised goals and objectives
- Role of Group
 - Group feedback
 - Refine ideas about WG's role
- Future priorities
 - Group feedback
 - Identify priorities

OUTCOMES

- Revised Position Paper including revised goals and objectives
- Better understanding of the WG's role
- Clear picture of WG's future directions and priorities



Survey Summary

1. In what context are you affiliated with the AMOY Working Group?

-Professional Biologist

-Academic

-Student

-Independent Researcher

-Interested member of the public

-Other (please specify)

Survey Summary

2. Have you read the AMOY Working Group Position Paper available on our website?

-Yes

-No

-I don't remember

-I didn't know it existed

3. What do you feel are the top two or three most important functions of the AMOY Working Group?

OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES



Survey Summary

4. Listed below are the current goals and objectives of the Working Group as stated in our Position Paper. Please rank the importance of each item to your work, with 1 being the most important and 6 the least important.
 1. Develop management objectives in a science-based, adaptive management framework.
 2. Monitor population trends at local, regional and continental scales.
 3. Obtain reliable estimates of demographic parameters and the factors that affect them.
 4. Understand how variations in demographic parameters affect population viability over space and time.
 5. Identify threats to American Oystercatcher populations.
 6. Translate these findings into management actions that promote AMOY conservation.

5. What goals and objectives, if any, are missing from the list above? In other words, what are we missing?

OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES



Survey Summary

6. How do you benefit professionally from being a member of the AMOY Working Group? Please explain.
7. What are the most rewarding or productive outcomes of attending annual AMOY Working Group meetings?

OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

8. Do you struggle to get institutional support for attending Working Group meetings?

-Yes

-No

-Other (please specify)



Survey Summary

9. Since 2001, the AMOY Working Group has accomplished many impressive goals such as developing a coordinated banding scheme and online database, facilitating comprehensive winter population surveys along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts and producing a Special Edition of the Waterbirds journal. Please list ideas for future coordinated or collaborative projects that you think the group should prioritize and facilitate in order to continue to advance AMOY conservation.

OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES



Survey Summary

10. Do you feel the utility of a single-species Working Group is diminishing in light of broader conservation initiatives such as the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative?

-Yes

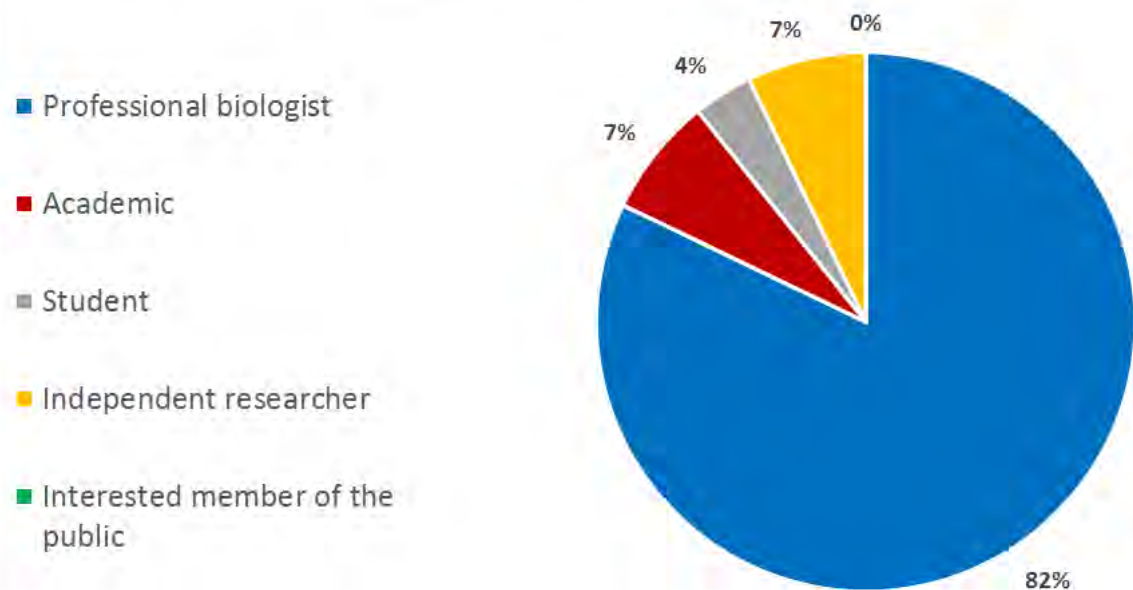
-No

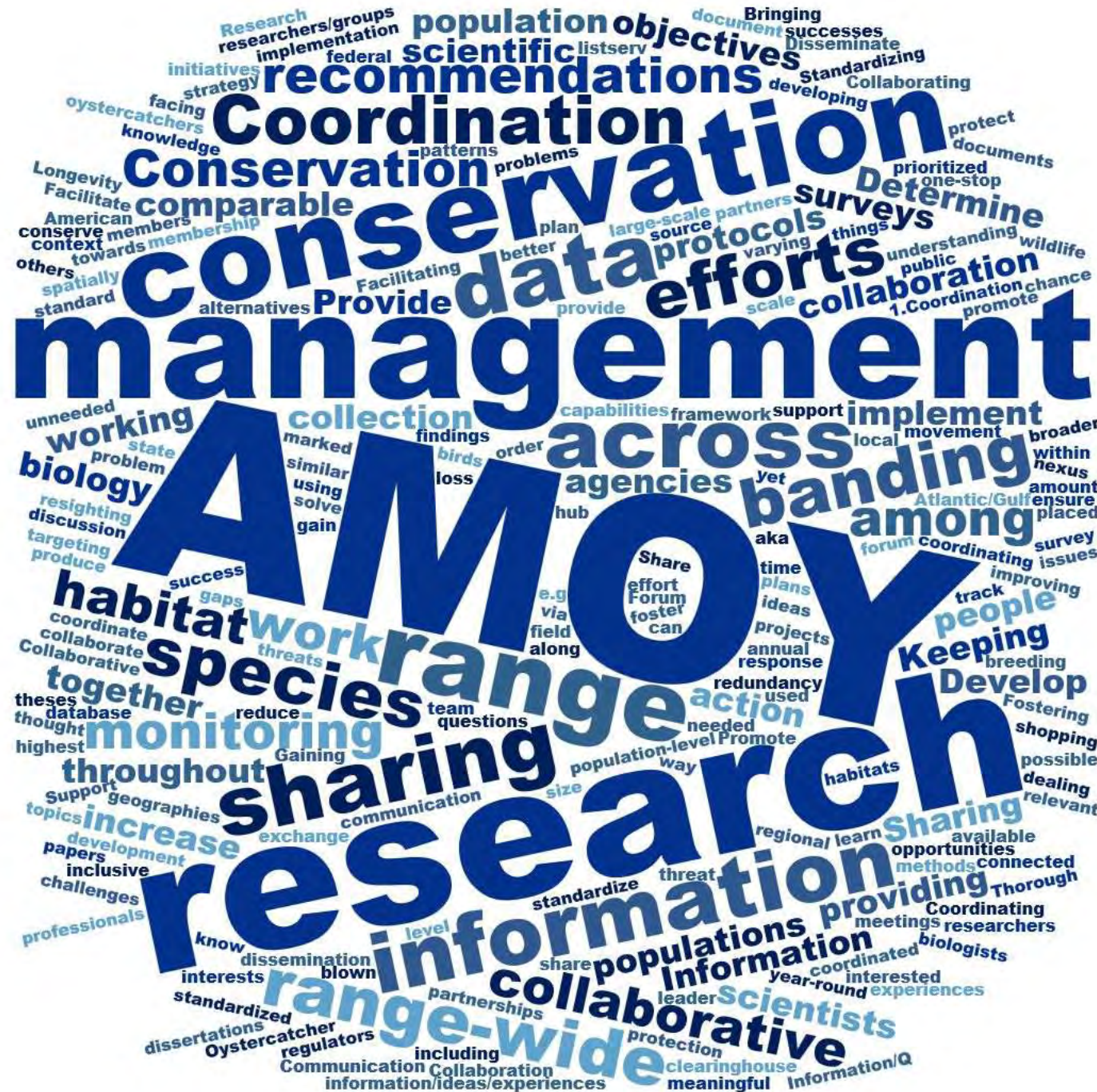
-If yes, please explain



Survey Summary

IN WHAT CONTEXT ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THE AMOY WG?







Most Important Functions

3. What do you feel are the top 2-3 most important functions of the AMOY WG?

Sharing Ideas and
Information

Coordination
Across the Range
And Among
Partners

“Standardize”
Monitoring Protocols
and Management
Practices and Banding

Conduct
Research

Collaboration
Collaboration
Collaboration

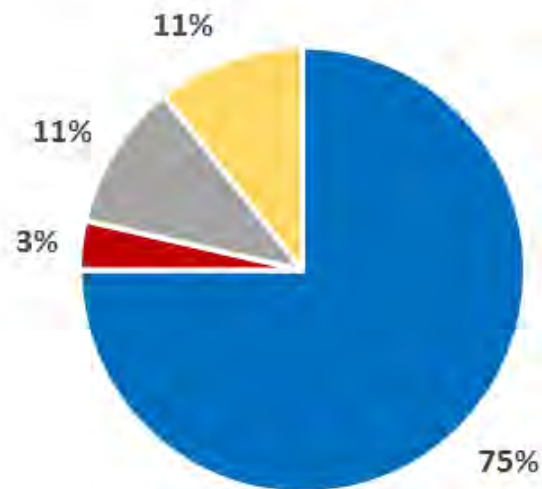
Direct or inform
conservation and
management

“Clearinghouse for all things AMOY”



Position Paper

HAVE YOU READ THE WG POSITION PAPER?



■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't remember ■ I didn't know it existed

Position Paper

HISTORY

- 2006 – Position Paper idea emerged at Cedar Key meeting
- Early 2007 – Draft Position Paper developed
- 2007 – draft reviewed during 2007 meeting on Ocracoke Island, NC
 - Mission Statement
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Membership
 - Accomplishments
 - Future Collaborative Work
 - Summary of research
- Sometime after 2007 – Final Position Paper

Position Paper

CURRENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Develop management objectives in a science-based, adaptive management framework
- Monitor population trends at local, regional, and continental scales
- Obtain reliable estimates of demographic parameters and the factors that affect them
- Understand how variations in demographic parameters affect population viability over space and time
- Identify threats to American Oystercatcher populations
- Translate these findings into management actions that promote American Oystercatcher conservation

Ranking Goals & Objectives

4. Listed below are the current goals and objectives of the Working Group as stated in our Position Paper. Please rank the importance of each item to your work, with 1 being the most important and 6 the least important.

	# 1 (%)	# 1-3 (%)
Monitor population trends	40	60
Develop management objectives	32	76
Translate findings into management actions	24	64
Identify threats	4	56
Obtain reliable estimates of demographic parameters	4	32
Understand how variations in demographic parameters affect population viability	0	20
	104*	



What is missing?

Question # 5: What goals and objectives, if any, are missing from the WG's current Goals and Objectives as stated in the Position Paper?

Outreach
Education
Communications

ID new
threats

Linking AMOY
conservation work
with other species

ID critical sites and limiting factors at
those sites

- Understanding where to
prioritize AMOY under multi-
species mgt. regimes

Dissemination of info to wider audiences
(BMPs?)

- Translating findings to wider audiences
- Collaboration with wider audiences
- Step-by-step how to get mgt. actions done

Facilitating
collaboration and
coordination

Assessment of habitat quality
and availability in the context of
changes due to human use and
climate change



Benefits and Rewards of Working Group/Meeting

Question # 6: How do you benefit professionally from being a member of the AMOY Working Group?

Question # 7: What are the most rewarding or productive outcomes of attending annual AMOY Working Group meetings?

Learning and
exchange of new
information

Conservation
at a range-
wide scale

“Networking” with regard
to jobs, funding, and in
general professionally

Opportunity for
collaboration and
partnerships

(Re)Connecting with
group members
in person

Camaraderie of group
Good/favorite group of
people

“Akin to having a support group.”

“Provides a model of professionalism and collaboration.”

“Helps me feel like my hard work on the local scale can contribute to real change at the population scale.”



Single-species Initiative

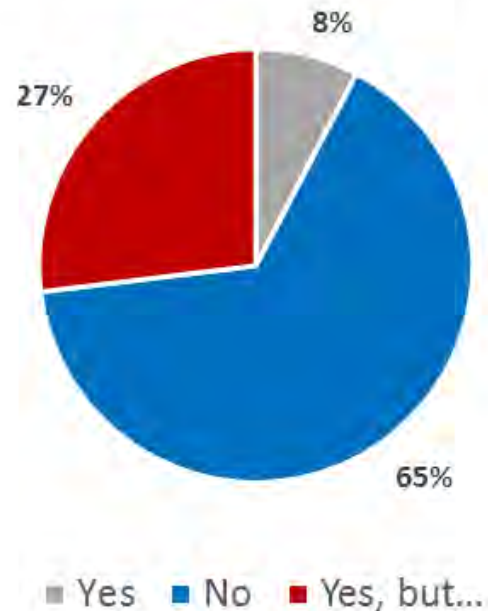
Efficiency in
multi species
initiatives

Need to
demonstrate
multi-species
benefits

Utility as funding
vehicle diminished

Framework for
groups with
broader focus

Utility of single-species Working Group diminishing?



Keeps managers
engaged and
focused

Utility of umbrella
species

Success BECAUSE
of focus

More
accomplishments
than most other
groups



Future priorities and directions

Question # 9: List ideas for future coordinated or collaborative projects that the WG should prioritize and/or facilitate.

