

# American Oystercatcher aerial survey 2012/2013

Manomet/NFWF/American Oystercatcher Working Group



# Aerial survey

- Timeframe: January/February 2018
- Follows protocol from 2003/2013 survey with modifications
- Survey windows:
  - Jan 6-11, Jan 21-27, (Gulf Coast)
  - Feb 3-Feb 10, Feb 17-24, March 01-March 09 (Atlantic Coast)
- Designed to be a complete survey of the AMOY winter range in the US, completed in a short time window

# Protocol

- Estimates of flock size
- Stratified sampling
- Aerial photography for detection rate within flocks
- Ground counts for flock detection rates
- Survey window High Tide +/- 2 Hours
- Pre and post survey window flights to estimate detection rates

## Boat/ground surveys

- Surveys on same tide cycle as aerial survey
- Observers will record flock size, GPS location, time, and roost substrate type
- Record GPS track
- Complete statewide surveys not required – Surveys will cover a well defined area on the same tide cycle as the aerial survey

# Survey Strata

- High use habitat
  - Inlets
  - Shell rakes, sand spits, docks, small islands.
  - Complete survey of all locations identified
- Intertidal marsh habitats
  - Marsh edges
  - Random subsample surveyed completely
  - Flight track recorded to quantify coverage
- Barrier beach habitats
  - Survey all in random blocks
  - Flight track recorded to quantify coverage

# Detection Rates

- Detection rate for flocks
  - Calculated from ground counts
  - Applied to high use habitat areas with no ground counts
- Detection rate for birds within flocks
  - Calculated with photographs
  - Applied to high use habitat area flocks with no photograph

# Analysis

- Working with Jim Lyons to review survey design
- Jim will work with us on the post-survey analysis and write-up as well
- Initial report to NFWF and the working group will be out in May
- Paper to be prepped for publication by the end of 2018