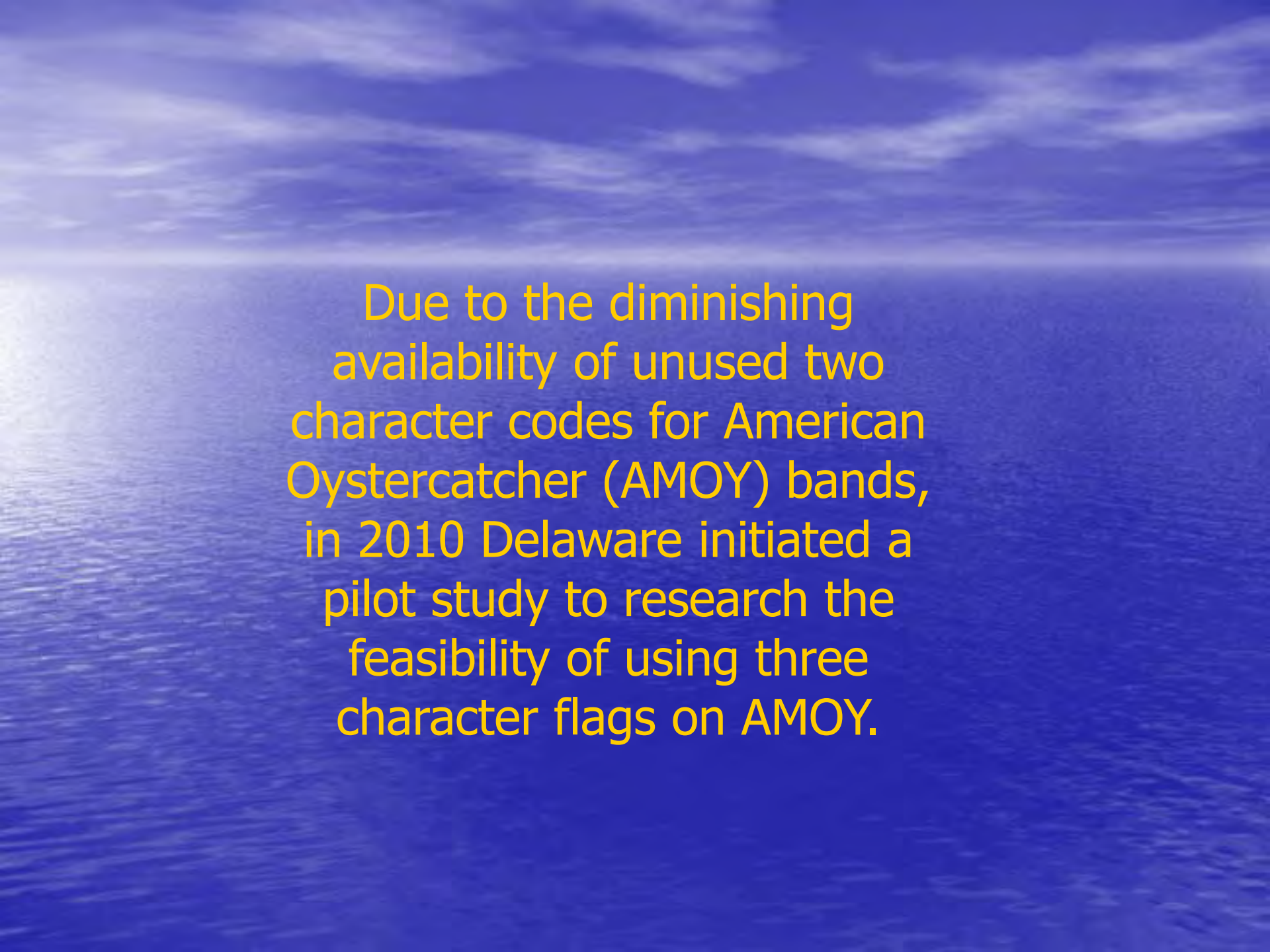


American Oystercatcher Banding In Delaware 2010

A Pilot Study
Using Three-Character
Flags



Due to the diminishing availability of unused two character codes for American Oystercatcher (AMOY) bands, in 2010 Delaware initiated a pilot study to research the feasibility of using three character flags on AMOY.

In consultation with members of AMOY Working Group and under the guidance of the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory, it was decided to use a combination of colored bands, aluminum bands and three character flags to mark each AMOY captured.

AMOY With Band/Flag Combination



Capture Methods

ADULTS

Noose carpets and decoys

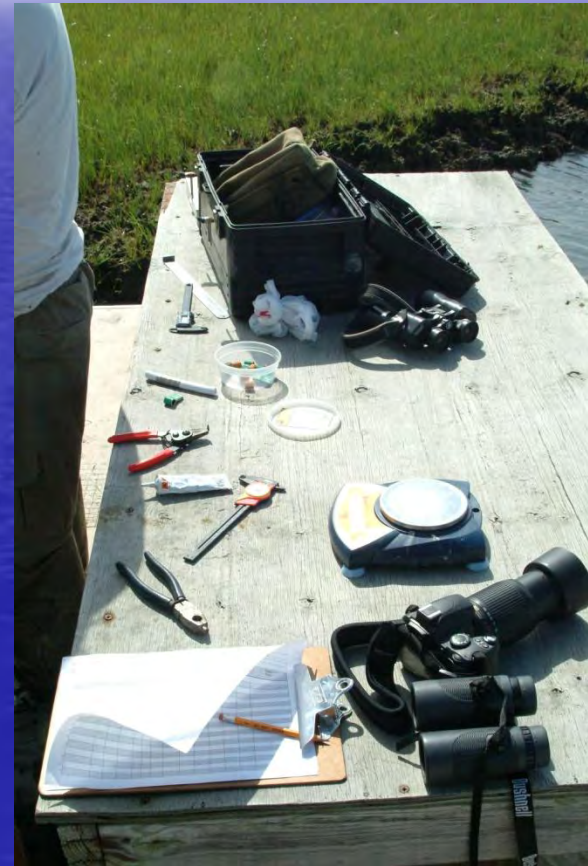
CHICKS

Hand-captured after they were 21 days old
or older

Noose carpet setup



Banding Setup



Resighting

- All chicks were resighted at least twice
- Four chicks recaptured, no sign of undue irritation on legs
- Resights done with scopes and binoculars, both on ground and in flight

Adult AMOY in flight



AMOY chick with flag



Results

- 9 Adult AMOY Banded with Three-Character Flags
- 8 AMOY Chicks Banded with Three-Character Flags

Acknowledgements

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
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- Haggie Engraving
- USGS Bird Banding Lab
- AMOY Working Group