

2015 Business Meeting Notes and Action Items

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Meeting Highlights

- AMOY network and working group continues to grow. Average coastwide productivity of 0.56 chicks/pair/year since 2009 at the start of the AMOY recovery campaign. The campaign goal is at least 0.5 chicks/pair/year.
- Too early for full 2015 field season results, but we heard initial reports from 12 states and the indications are that the 2015 field season will again show elevated reproductive success. Monitoring and management efforts are ongoing from Maine to Texas and include habitat management, plastic cleanup, predator control, disturbance management, and banding/resighting.
- We heard from Lindsay Addison of NC Audubon about the opportunity for the BBL to permanently store our banding and resight data. This work would not change how we use the AMOY band database, but would provide a long-term home for the data. Lindsay recently sent out a follow-up email to the working group about the next steps in this process and please think those through and respond with your opt-in/opt-out preference after you have conferred with others in your state/project.
- The breeding season repeated survey effort continued in 2015 and will expand to additional states in 2016 as more partners join in the effort. The objectives of this effort are to further refine survey methodology and assess detection probability, as well as to help participating states improve their own survey efforts.
- The Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Conservation Business Strategy is now in the implementation phase. The AMOY recovery effort continues to be supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as a part of the larger Shorebird recovery effort. Pre-proposals for the next NFWF grant cycle for AMOY/Atlantic Flyway work are due on October 20.
- A section of this meeting was dedicated to presentations from international partners and a discussion of new avenues for international cooperation and participation.
 - Miriam Janeth del Rocio Lerma Lizarraga – Working in Sinaloa, Mexico with Non-breeding AMOY and local fisherman to build a volunteer and knowledge base.
 - Jose Alfredo Castillo Guerrero – Sinaloa, Mexico, breeding surveys
 - Eduardo Palacios Castro – Overview of AMOY work in Mexico. Organized a network of researchers in NW Mexico. Completed conservation plan. Most AMOY sites are in NW Mexico.
 - Jose Alfredo Alvarez Cerda – Surveys in the Laguna Madre, Mexico.
- A very fruitful discussion followed the presentations by our Mexican colleagues, culminating in a set of actions to foster ongoing communication and collaboration between the US AMOY working group and partners in Mexico and South America.

Collaborative Actions:

- Initial priorities for collaboration
 - Join Listserv
 - Working Group website – extend to include section on international cooperators/partners
 - Disseminate and translate current BMPs
 - Translate at least introductory material on website (Manomet)
 - Explore hosting one of the AMOY Working Group meetings closer to Mexico or in Mexico/Central America for easier travel for Mexican participants
 - Include international AMOY workshops at WHSG meeting (and other international meetings as opportunities arise)
 - Explore joint research and management grants between US/Mexico partners
 - Integrate Mark-resight database

- Longer-term collaborative work
 - Connect with Brazil shorebird group
 - Promote and integrate regional action plans
 - Higher level discussion between U.S./Mexico governments on policy/priorities (critical habitat)
 - Letter of support from U.S. AMOY Working Group
 - Extending ISS through Mexico
 - Identify research needs and recruit international exchange students.
 - Develop/encourage exchange student/intern programs

Working Group Action Items:

- Breeding season survey participation
- Survey design changes and communication
- Poll Working Group on BBL migration
- Finalize the special issue of Waterbirds
- Update AMOYs BMPs
- Band inventory on website