



Audubon | CONNECTICUT

# American Oystercatcher 2020 Breeding Season Summary





# 2020 Season

## Coastal Program Shorebird Monitoring

- Audubon Alliance for Coastal Waterbirds
  - Audubon Connecticut
  - Roger Tory Peterson Institute
  - Connecticut Audubon Society
- Partners
  - CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Local Municipalities
- Many Dedicated Volunteers



## Impact of COVID-19 Restrictions

### Our Efforts

- Delayed Field Work
  - Working from home
- Limited field activities
  - Only exclosed second PIPL nests
  - Infrequent boat use for island surveys
- Reduced Staff
  - ACT down two field technicians
- Volunteer Efforts Delayed
  - Began mid June

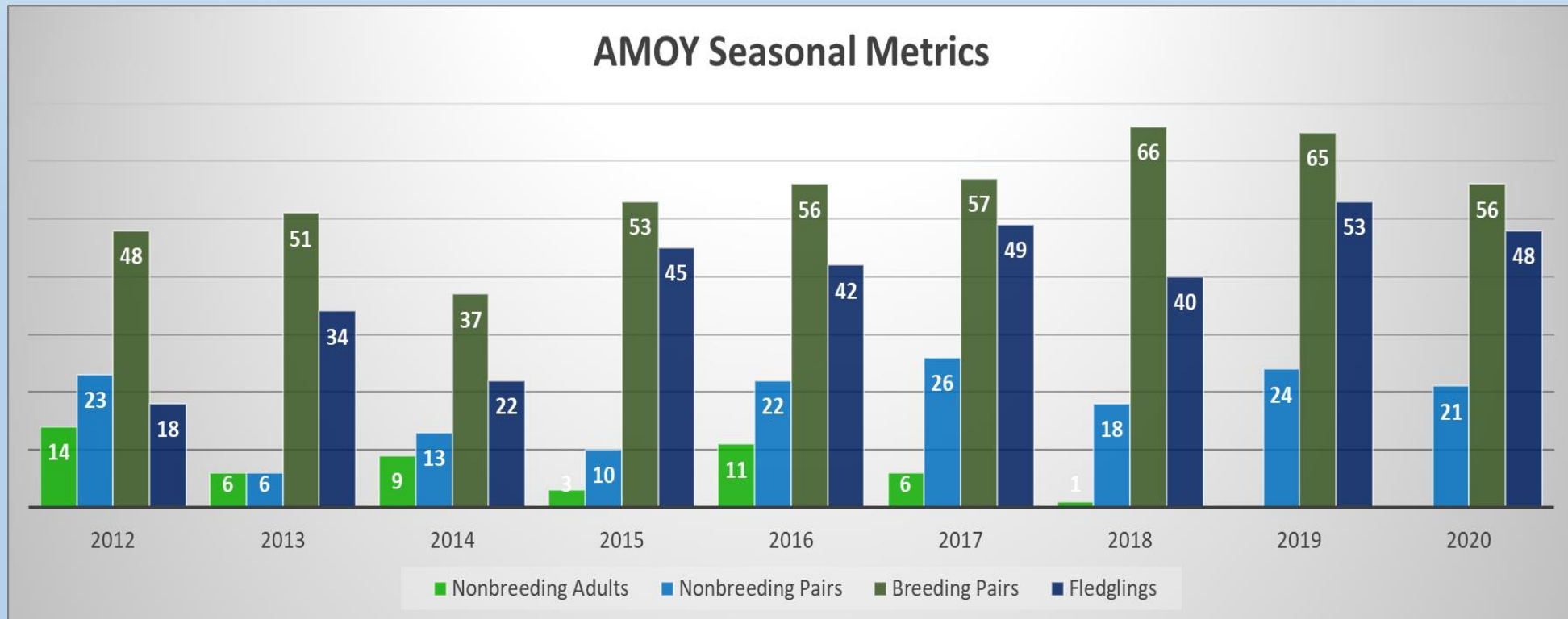
### Human Disturbance

- More People on Beaches and Islands
- Increased Early Season Beach Visitation
- Increased Water Craft Use
- Visitation Restrictions
  - Beach Closures
  - Open to Residents Only
  - No Restrictions or Closures



## AMOY Population

56 - Breeding pairs, 21 - Non-breeding pairs, 48 - Chicks fledged

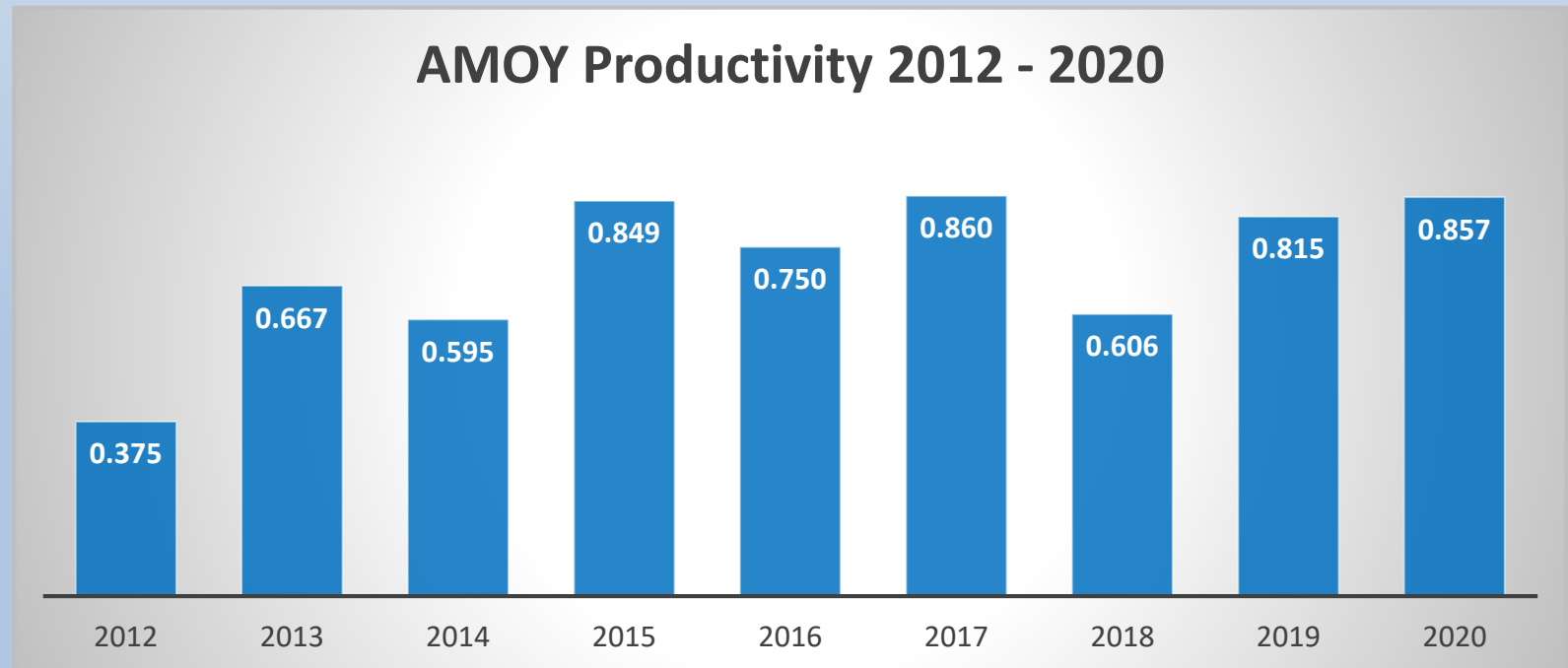




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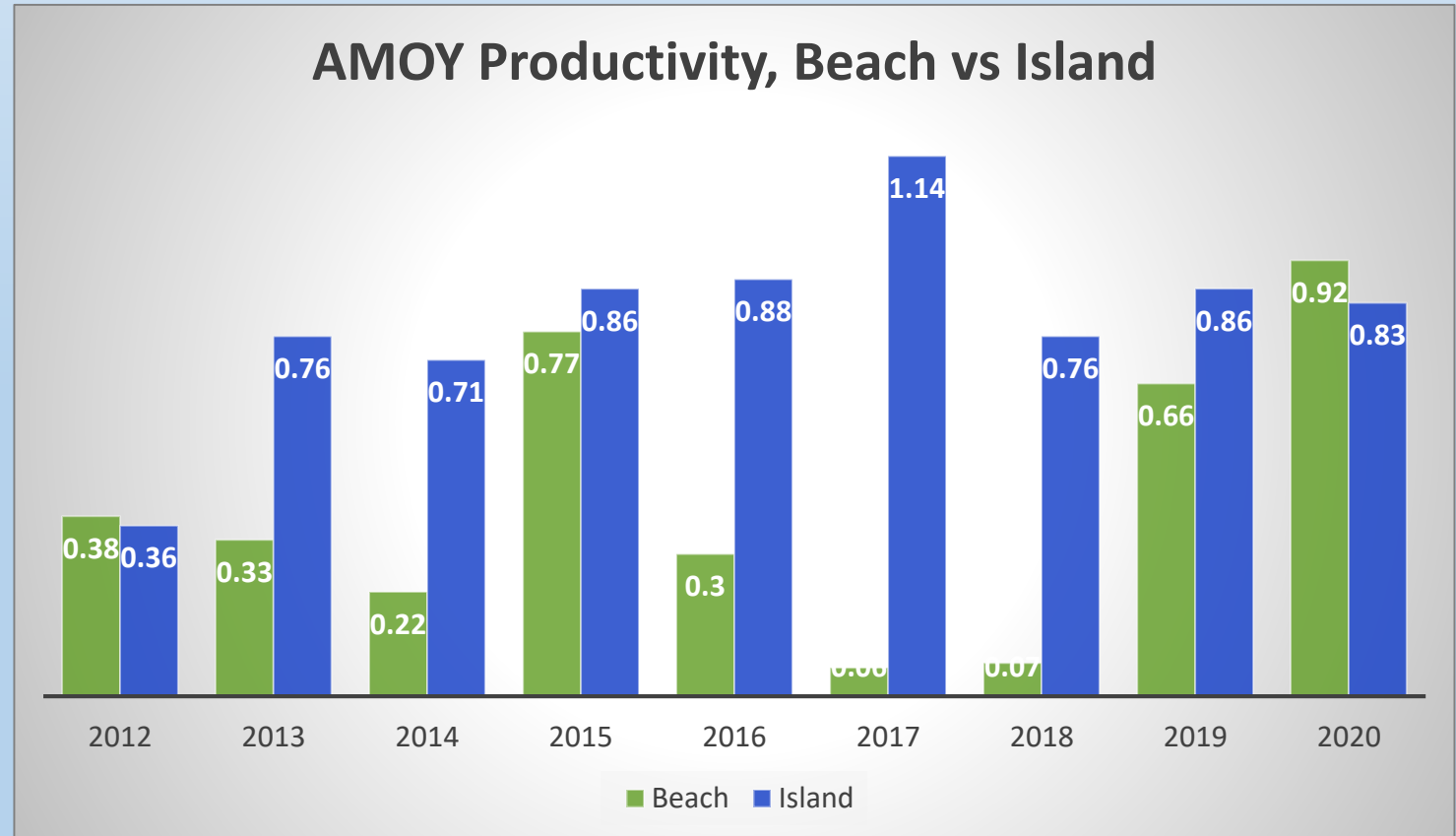
## AMOIY Productivity

- Productivity - 0.85  
(Fledglings/ breeding pair)
- Three year  
average - 0.75
- Second highest  
since 2012



## Breeding Site Variation

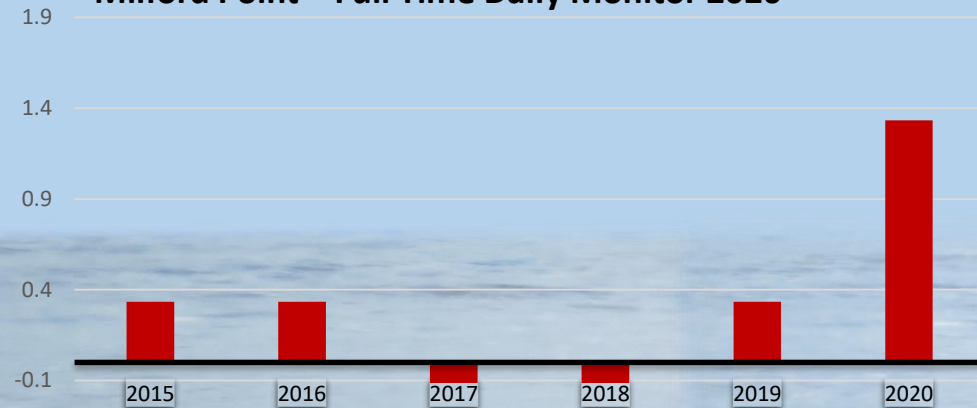
- 144 sites surveyed
- 56 used by AMOY
- 31 breeding sites
  - 77% Offshore Islands
  - 23% Mainland Beaches
- Highest beach productivity, 0.92, since 2012
- Island productivity 0.83



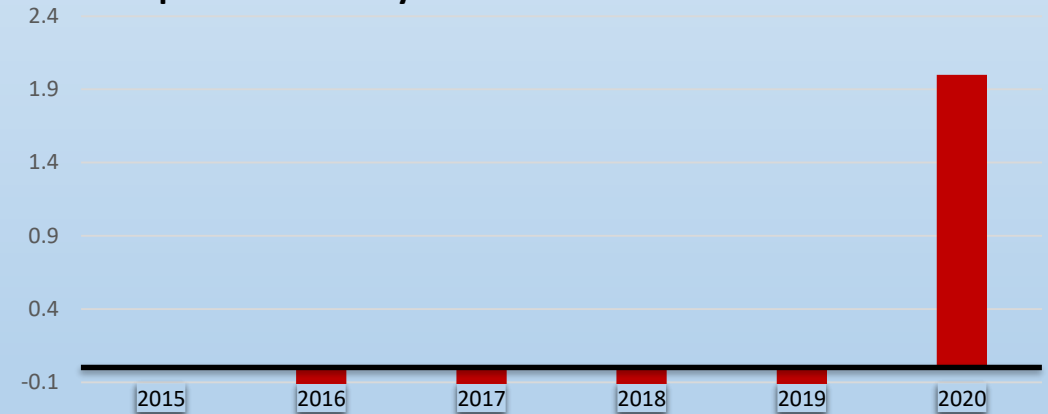
## Productive Mainland Sites

- COVID early season beach closures & a full time daily monitor resulted in
  - Highest AMOY productivity at three mainland sites in the past six years
  - First ever PIPL nest at Compo Beach
  - First successful Black Skimmer colony in 15 years at Sandy Point

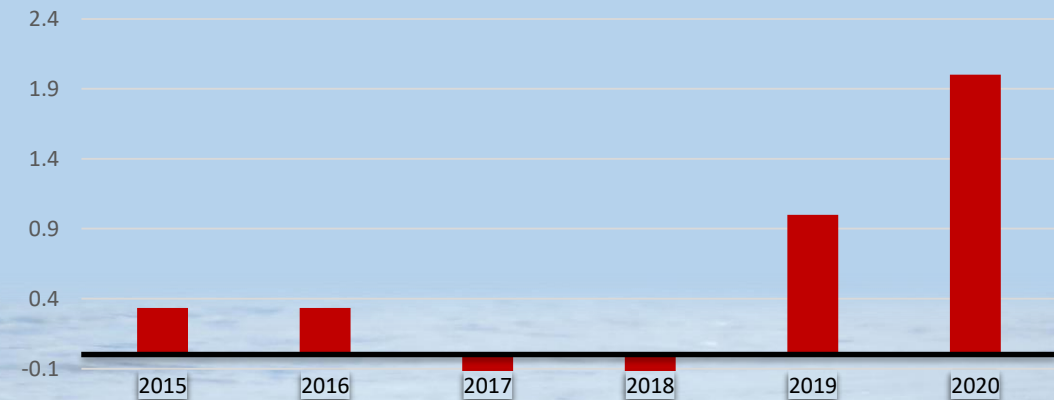
**Milford Point – Full Time Daily Monitor 2020** ■ AMOY



**Compo Beach – Early Season Beach Closure 2020** ■ AMOY



**Sandy Point – Early Season Beach Closure 2020** ■ AMOY



# Thank You!

