**ATLANTIC FLYWAY COUNCIL (AFC)**

**NONGAME MIGRATORY BIRD TECHNICAL SECTION**

*2017 AFC Summer Meeting*

**RECOMMENDATION NUMBER:** 1

**INITIATED BY:** Waterbird Committee

**SUBJECT:** Support for state development and implementation of a consistent, coordinated survey for making management and conservation decisions regarding priority colonial waterbird species.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That states and provinces: (1) support and participate in a 2018 Atlantic Flyway Colonial Waterbird Survey for species of conservation and management priority, to the maximum extent that state resources and staff will allow, (2) establish periodic coordinated surveys (e.g., every 5 years) for the Atlantic Flyway by 2023, and (3) help develop a shared colonial waterbird data management system with a map interface.

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:**

1. A coordinated colonial waterbird survey effort will enable state, federal, provincial and other contributing partners to support management practices and associated permitting for managed species (e.g., take permits for gulls and cormorants), and identify declining species needing conservation actions in order to preempt the need for state, federal, and provincial listing.
2. A coordinated colonial waterbird survey effort will provide information for evaluating trends of colonial nesting species’ population sizes and distribution, habitat losses and gains, and other common parameters across broad geographic areas.

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:**

1. Limited resources among participating states may delay/impede implementation of colonial waterbird breeding surveys.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

**ACTION BY TS:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Passed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Failed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Tabled

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair, Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Section Date

**ACTION BY AFC:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Passed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Failed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Tabled

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair, Atlantic Flyway Council Date

**ATLANTIC FLYWAY COUNCIL (AFC)**

**NONGAME MIGRATORY BIRD TECHNICAL SECTION**

*2018 AFC Winter Meeting*

**RECOMMENDATION NUMBER:** 1

**INITIATED BY:** Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Section - Waterbird Committee

**SUBJECT:** Request for colonial waterbird (CWB) survey data to populate a shared CWB data management system.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Atlantic coast states and provinces agree to contribute historical, current and future CWB survey data to a common, shared colonial waterbird data management system in order to facilitate meaningful analyses at multiple spatial scales. The waterbird staff of each contributing agency will be consulted by coordinating entities such as the AMBC Seabird Colonies and Adjacent Waters Working Group to (1) determine the type, format, and temporal extent of available data and (2) provide input in the development of the shared data repository to ensure agency needs and concerns are fully addressed.

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:**

1. Coastal state, provincial and federal fish and wildlife agencies and partnering organizations within the Atlantic Flyway collect and compile a wide variety of CWB data that, when integrated with similar data collected by other states and regions, can greatly enhance analyses of species’ population sizes and distributions, habitat losses and gains, and other common parameters across broad geographic areas.
2. The continued absence of comprehensive and accurate range-wide population estimates and other demographic parameters can result in misinformed management decisions and/or lead to an inability to measure CWB responses to management actions.
3. The Atlantic Flyway Council (AFC) demonstrated its support of the development of a shared data repository with its approval of the following recommendation at the August 2017 AFC meeting:

“*That states and provinces: (1) support and participate in a 2018 Atlantic Flyway Colonial Waterbird Survey for species of conservation and management priority, to the maximum extent that state resources and staff will allow, (2) establish periodic coordinated surveys (e.g., every 5 years) for the Atlantic Flyway by 2023, and (3) help develop a shared colonial waterbird data management system with a map interface*”*.*

Acquiring official confirmation from Atlantic coast states and provinces that they agree to contribute relevant CWB data in a timely fashion is the first step in fulfilling the third component of the 2017 recommendation.

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:**

1. Limited staff among participating states and provinces may impede the delivery of CWB data in a timely fashion.
2. Some states and their partners may not be able to share all data due to data sharing restrictions.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

**ACTION BY TS:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Passed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Failed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Tabled

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair, Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Section Date

**ACTION BY AFC:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Passed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Failed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Tabled

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair, Atlantic Flyway Council Date