Avian Work Group Meeting #3
Tuesday, February 10; 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Participants

Work Group: Anne Marine Runfola (NOAA), Dave Wiley (NOAA), Dan Dorfman (NOAA), Peter Paton (URI), Chris Elphick (UConn), Chris Dwyer (USFWS), Cory Merow (USFWS), Jeff Herter (NY DOS), Liz Podowski (NY DOS) Gwynn Crichton (TNC)

Marine Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT): Corrie Curtice and Jesse Cleary (Duke), Brian Kinlan and Arliss Winship (NOAA), Earvin Balderama (Loyola)

NROC: Nick Napoli, Emily Shumchenia, Katie Lund

Welcome, introductions, etc.

After roll call, Emily described the process by which NROC and the MDAT team collected feedback from WG members regarding species, modeling, and other data product outputs. Emily collated and summarized this feedback and presented it to the MDAT team for incorporation into a draft work plan. The MDAT team has since produced a draft work plan for work group review (included in meeting materials). As with previous calls, we will continue to solicit and gather feedback on this work plan in order to finalize it.

Assessment boundaries

A map of assessment boundaries was developed for all MDAT products (pdf included in meeting materials). This map considers work group feedback on an initial set of study area options, including the extension of the area beyond New England due to ecological factors (i.e., includes the Bay of Fundy and Hudson Canyon based on data availability). It is important to note that these boundaries will be used to clip model outputs and create summary statistics from the data products; these are not regulatory/planning boundaries. From discussions with the Mid-Atlantic Data Portal Team, an assessment area was delineated for any potential marine life products that could be developed for that region. There is an intentional area of overlap between the two regions, which centers around NY waters and out to the EEZ.

Ongoing discussions between NROC, MDAT and the Mid-Atlantic Data Portal Team will determine if it is possible to also develop products for the combined Northeast/Mid-Atlantic area and the Mid-Atlantic area alone, in addition to the Northeast area already underway.

- **Work group to provide final comments on assessment boundaries**

MDAT Avian Work Plan

Brian walked through the MDAT work plan and the following points were discussed:

The caption and/or accompanying text for Table 2 will be updated to specify that 1) all species in this table will be modeled; 2) the "Priority" column refers to NCCOS's internal computational prioritization; the NROC and work group species prioritization table will be added as an Appendix.

Table 5 describes the anticipated products from NCCOS and Loyola models. Currently, "extreme aggregations" are defined as the 90th percentile of counts/segment. "Persistence" is defined as >50% chance of exceeding the 90th percentile from monthly threshold exceedence maps. The work group discussed how, given the current definitions of these terms, "Persistence" is actually examining the

persistence of extreme aggregations. Options for using a different threshold for Persistence included changing the threshold to the 50th or 75th percentile instead of the 90th. The MDAT team would like feedback from the work group on how Persistence and/or Extreme aggregations are defined.

The MDAT team will be adding supporting text and explanations to Table 6, referring to the anticipated uncertainty products, along with a brief description of the differences and tradeoffs between the uncertainty products generated from NCCOS versus Loyola models.

- **Work group will review MDAT's draft work plan and provide input and comments**
- **Work group will provide input and comments on priority species, aggregation and persistence definitions and products and uncertainty products**

Data sources outside the Compendium

(1) Chris Elphick gave a brief update about the Saltmarsh Habitat and Avian Research Project (SHARP) project. Models for 5 species (Clapper rail, Saltmarsh sparrow, Willet, Nelson's sparrow and Seaside sparrow) will likely be published within the year and possibly made pubic within the time frame of the MDAT project. There is an opportunity for the MDAT Avian team to reference SHARP products within their suite of final products. Additionally, SHARP is collecting data on several other species that do not have models developed yet; the Avian work group community is invited to inquire about collaborations regarding these data.

(2) Dan Dorfman gave a brief update about the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) and updates to maps/data from Maine to Georgia following Hurricane Sandy (pdfs distributed with meeting materials). The ESI is composed of a shoreline characterization as well as maps of marine mammal, turtle, bird and fish distribution, terrestrial communities, benthic communities and some invertebrates. There are ~125 bird species captured in the ESI (based on endangered status, susceptibility to oiling and other factors) and is spatially limited to 12 miles offshore. The Compendium is one source of data for ESI maps of bird occurrence, in addition to expert knowledge and other sources. Because of the timing of ESI updates (below), the Long Island Sound ESI may be the only subregion that could be integrated/referenced in the MDAT suite of final products.

ESI Delivery Dates to NOAA

LIS – 5/15
S. Carolina – 7/15
Hudson/S Long Island/NY-NJ metro – 9/15
N. Carolina – 5/16
Maine/NH – 5/16
MA/RI – 7/16
Chesapeake – 9/16

(3) Chris Dwyer mentioned that the USFWS Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey could provide an important source of data for nearshore avian observations (i.e., Atlantic brant cannot be modeled from Compendium data).

- **Work group to provide feedback on the coverage of the suite of products (NCCOS model products, Loyola model products, SHARP, and ESI) for ocean planning purposes and whether there any potential additional sources or products that can fill gaps**

Next work group call

Feedback on the MDAT work plan will be sought out and incorporated prior to the next call.
MDAT/NROC will follow up with work group members with expertise/interest in refining aggregation, persistence and uncertainty metrics.