

## PREFACE

The Alaska Seabird Information Series (ASIS) is a compilation of seabird species accounts for all seabirds breeding in Alaska and five important nonbreeders. Conservation status, life history, distribution, population size and trends, conservation concerns, and recommended management actions are included in the accounts. The nonbreeders were selected not only because they spend a large part of their life cycle in Alaskan waters, but also due to concerns about bycatch in Alaskan fisheries. These nonbreeders include the Black-footed Albatross, Laysan Albatross, Short-tailed Albatross, Short-tailed Shearwater, and Sooty Shearwater. The Short-tailed Albatross is of special concern because of its endangered status.

Originally, the species accounts were written to be used as an appendix for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Alaska Region, Seabird Conservation Plan. As the accounts developed, it was thought that they might also serve as stand alone documents to be handed out to the public for educational purposes. To that end, it was decided that one page, front and back, would be the appropriate length. As an additional educational and informational tool, it was determined that the ASIS should be posted on the USFWS website. Consequently, the accounts developed into a multi-purpose document.

Serving the management function and making the accounts “user friendly” for the general public presented various challenges. An effort was made to keep scientific language and formatting to a minimum and at the same time present the most up to date and factual information possible. Shortened, abbreviated references were used on the individual species accounts, again to make the document more appealing to the general public. A full list of literature cited is presented at the back of this document; it will also be included in the Seabird Conservation Plan and posted with the ASIS on the USFWS website.

Detailed information on many aspects of each seabird species is available in numerous documents and unpublished USFWS data. However, prior to this time, current information had not been compiled in a single document for each of the Alaskan breeding species. Another objective of the ASIS was to summarize these data while putting them in one document. Limiting the individual species accounts to one page made it impossible to include all pertinent information. Rather, it is hoped that the ASIS may serve as a quick reference or starting point for managers needing information on the individual species and as an introduction to the public on the full range of Alaskan breeding seabirds.