

Research Needs Identified by Pribilof Islands Collaborative  
February 2006  
Seabirds Meeting (no particular order)

1. Effects and fate of offal discharges (including shore-based and at-sea processing)
2. Fate/ location of auklets and other species that periodically “disappear” from PI
3. Winter distribution of seabirds around PI
4. Population trends and nearshore surveys of seabirds on PI (vs. some known data from elsewhere in Bering Sea)
5. PI seabird population trends pre 1970’s (e.g. midden studies)
6. Differences in population trends between St. Paul and St. George- what are sources of observed variation from one island to another?
7. Establish protocol to collect stomachs and tissues from harvested birds (unutilized data source)
8. Effect of native foxes on populations of seabirds (e.g. via experimental eradication/ control)
9. Pelagic seabird distribution data post 1985 (e.g. Piatt’s work on NPPSD)
10. Identify “Pribilof” bird origins; are some actually St. Matthew birds?
11. Can oceanographic features/ underlying geomorphology predict seabird concentrations/ distribution? Is there predictability?
12. Direct impacts of commercial fisheries at population level
13. Study the forage base (ex: capelin and sandlance): temporal and spatial distribution in relation to variation in oceanography/temperature
14. Beached bird surveys (i.e. via Island Sentinel program): establish baseline of species composition and numbers; monitor marine debris; drift studies; carcass persistence
15. Effects and occurrence of plastic ingestion in Pribilof birds