

Alaska's Ocean Sentinels: Update on the 2023-2024 seabird mortality events

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

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I. Jones



M. Rauzon



D. Cushing



S. Webb

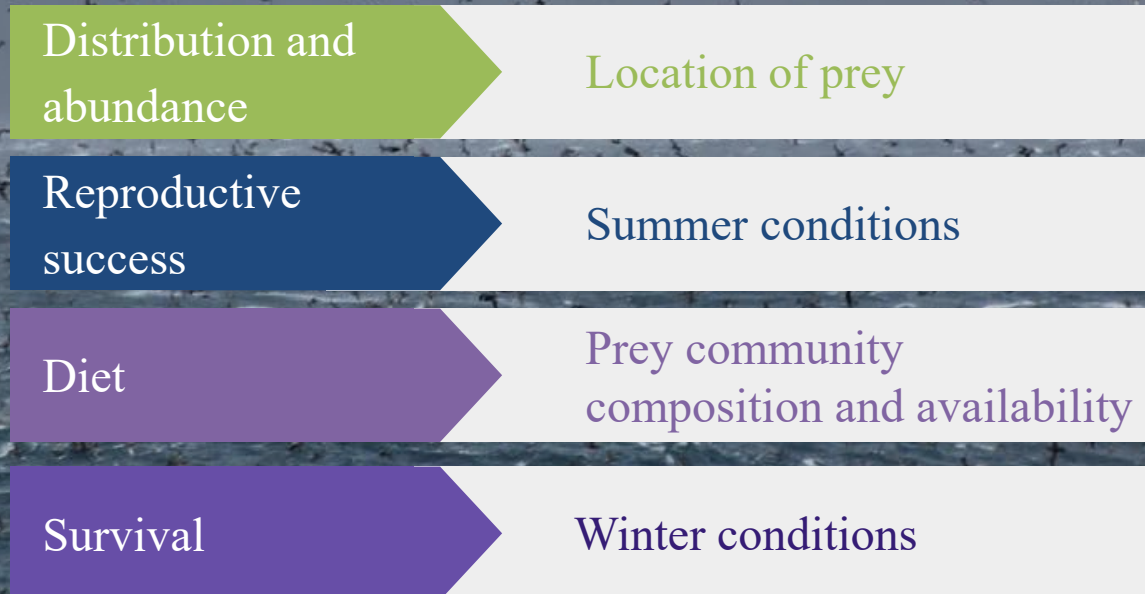
Robb Kaler & January Frost U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Migratory Birds Management
ROBERT_KALER@FWS.GOV



Robb Kaler

- ~ 30 million seabirds breed in Alaska and another
- ~30 million birds migrate here during our summer to take advantage of high productivity and variety of prey

What are seabirds telling us?





Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

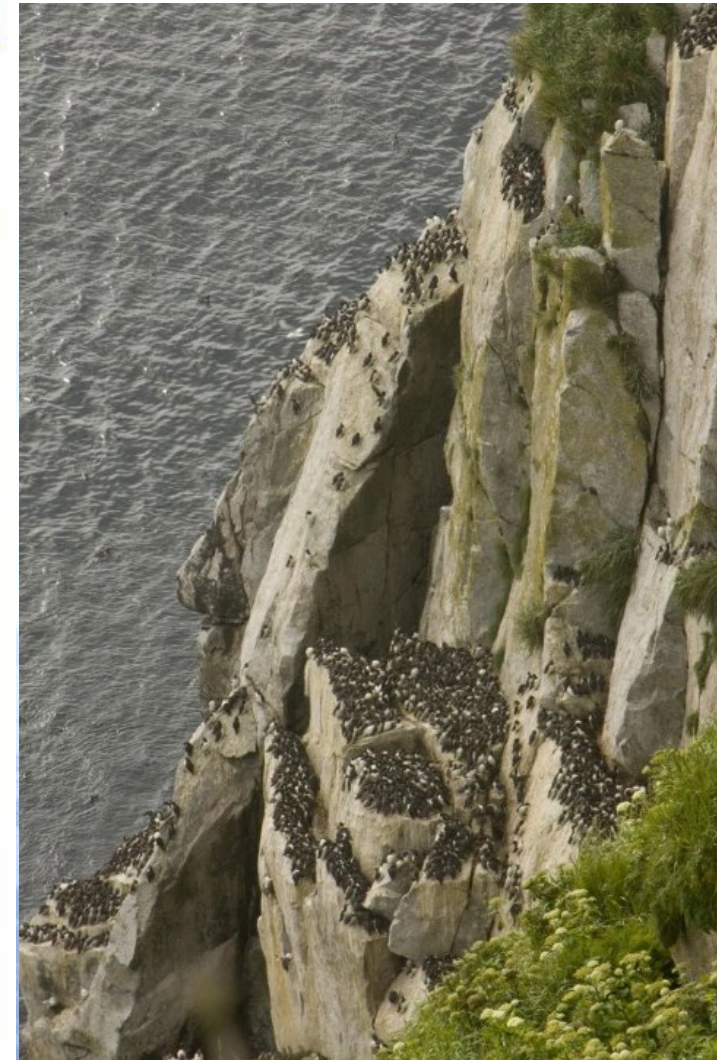
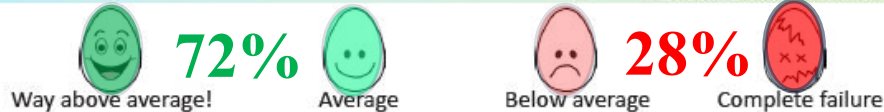
2023 Seabird Report Card



Region	Annual monitoring site	Red-faced cormorants	Glaucous-winged gulls	Common murre	Thick-billed murre	Horned puffins	Tufted puffins	Red-legged kittiwakes	Black-legged kittiwakes	Northern fulmar	Fork-tailed storm-petrels	Leach's storm-petrels	Parakeet auklets	Least auklets
Chukchi Sea	Cape Lisburne													
Bering Sea	St. George	😊		😊	😊			😊	😊					😊
	St. Paul	😊		😞	😊			😊	😞					
Aleutian Islands	Buldir		😊		😞	😊	😊	🔴	😞		😞	😊	😞	😊
	Aiktak		😊	😊	😊	😊	😊				😊	😊		
Alaska Penin.	Chowiet	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞	😊		🔴				😊	
Gulf of Alaska	East Amatuli		😊	😊			😞		😞		😊			
	St. Lazaria		😊	😊	😊						😊	😊		



Eggs represent overall productivity relative to the long-term average. White eggs indicate productivity derived from monitoring data; colored eggs indicate productivity based on anecdotal observations.



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Bering Sea	St. George	😊		😊	😞			😊	😊				😊
	St. Paul	😞		😞	😞			😊	😞				
Aleutian Islands	Buldir		😊		😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	😊	😞	😊
	Aiktak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊			😊	😊		
Alaska Penin.	Chowiet		😊	😊	😊	😊	😊		😞			😊	
Gulf of Alaska	East Amatuli		😊	😞					💣	😞			
	St. Lazaria		😊	😊	😊					😊	😊		



<<< Primarily fish eaters

Primarily zooplankton eaters >>>



Way above average!

Average



Below average

Complete failure

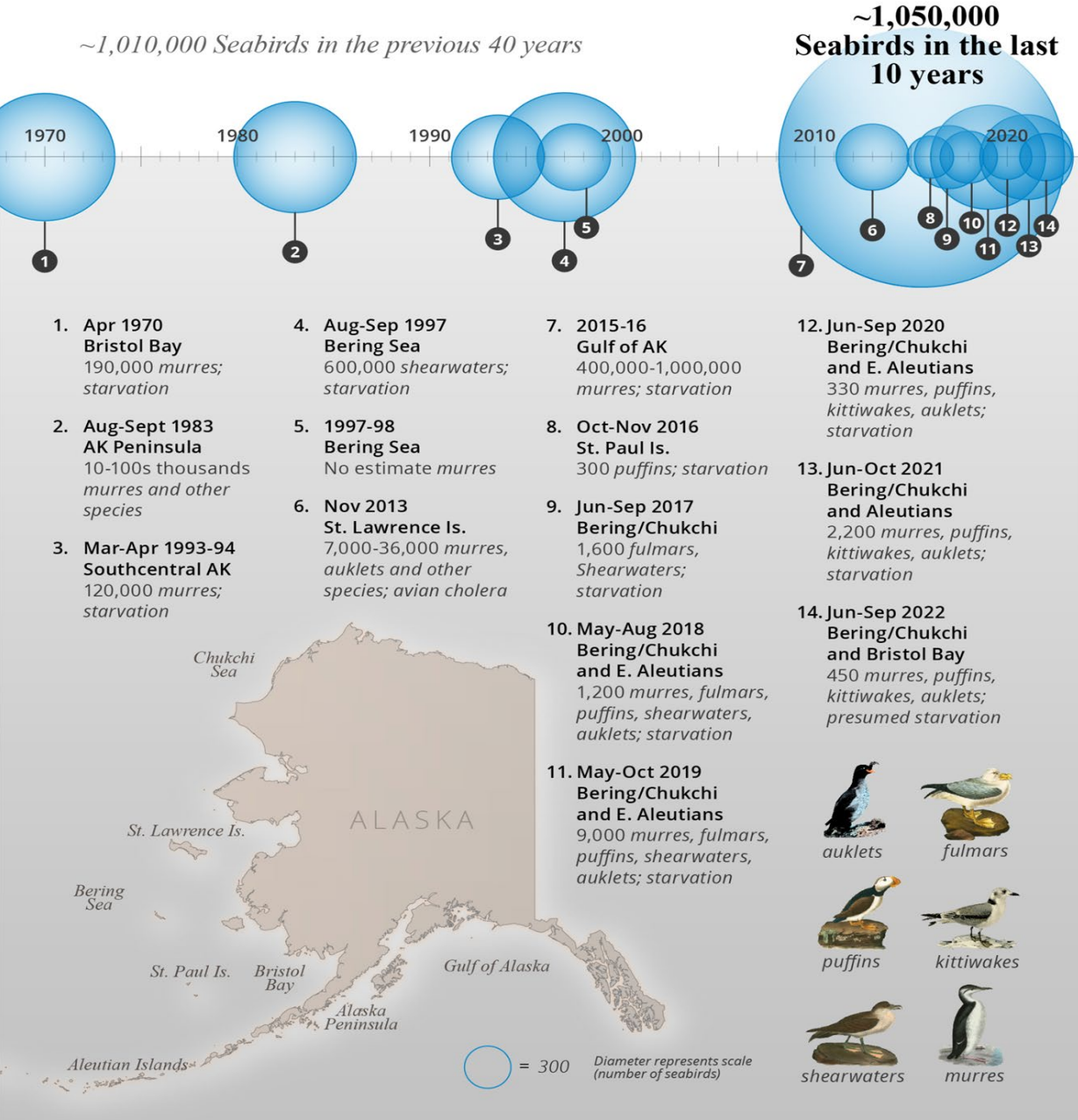
Eggs represent overall productivity relative to the long-term average derived from monitoring data.



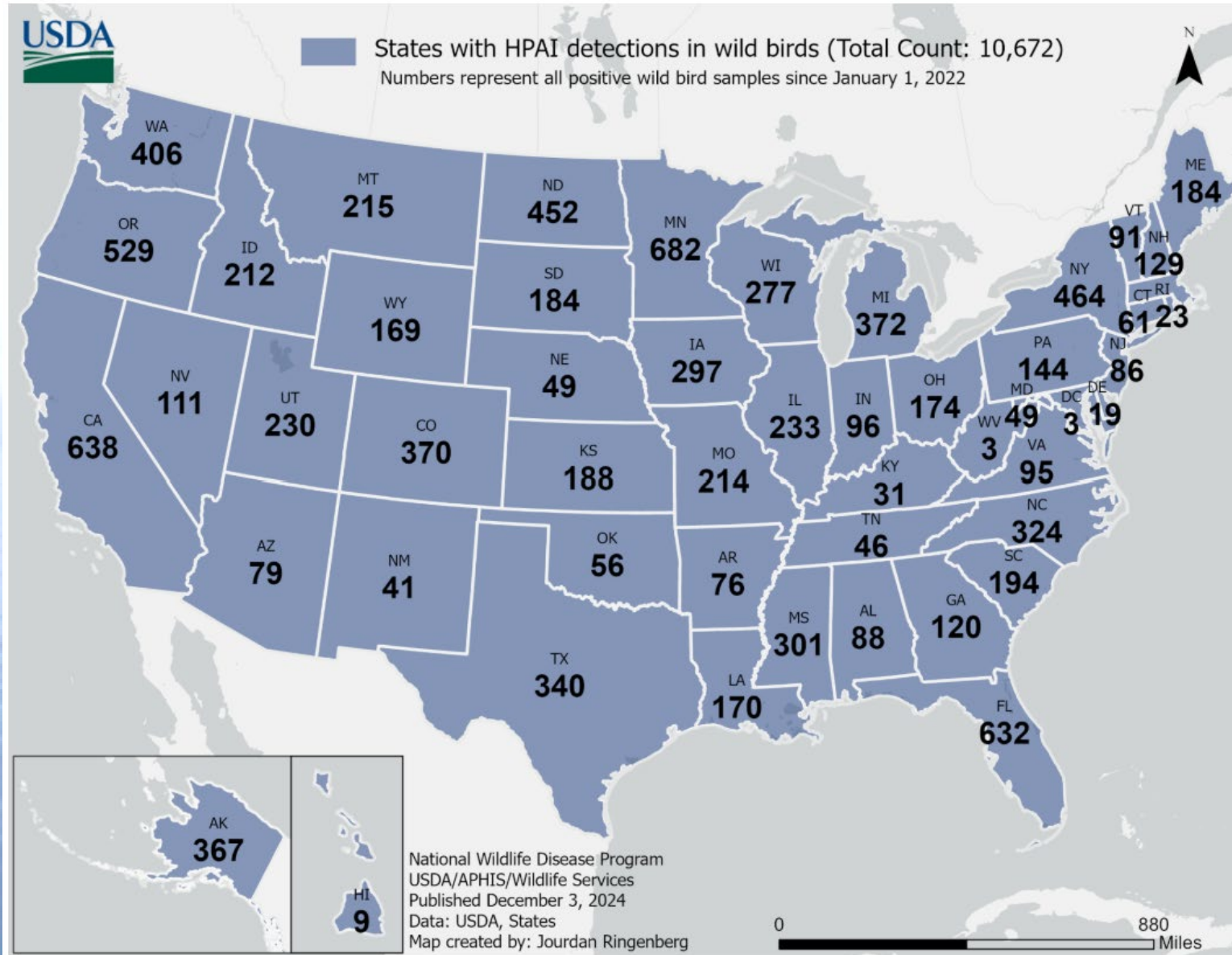
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Seabird Die-offs

- Alaska die-offs rare prior to 2015, now annual?
- Species at all trophic levels affected
 - Puffins at St. Paul 2017
 - Shearwaters 2019 – SE Bering Sea
 - Common Murres in GOA 2014-2016
- Public health concern for coastal communities



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detections



Since 2022: 367 detections in Alaska

- Seabirds include shearwaters, murre, kittiwakes, gulls, and jaegers
- foxes, black bears, & 1 polar bear (otherwise no marine mammals)
- Bird Flu has limited samples available for harmful algal bloom but currently not linked to 2023 reports

For further information:

USFWS Migratory Bird Office, Alaska Region

Robb Kaler, Seabird Biologist

robert_kaler@fws.gov

January Frost, HPAI Coordinator

january_frost@fws.gov