



USFWS Alaska Region, Migratory Bird Management
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August 2018

What's Happening?

Beginning in May 2018, the USFWS began receiving reports of dead and dying seabirds from the northern Bering and southern Chukchi seas. This event continues and now includes the Pribilof Islands and the northern Gulf of Alaska. Coastal communities have counted hundreds of dead seabirds that include: murre, fulmars, shearwaters, kittiwakes, auklets, and puffins.

Although seabird die-offs occur occasionally, this die-off, similar to the Gulf of Alaska common murre die-off in 2015-2016, is unusual due to the:

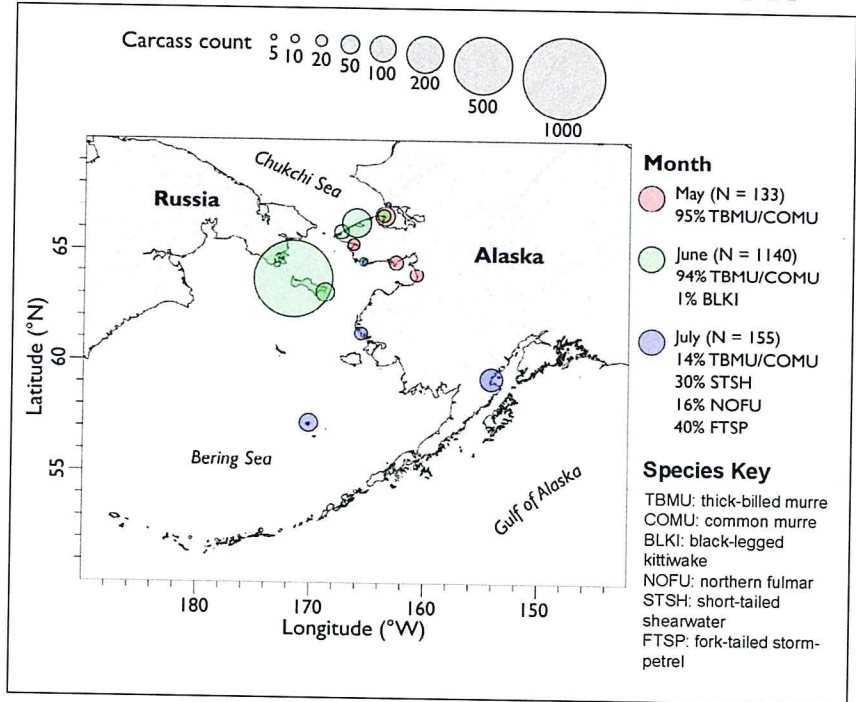
- large number of birds involved
- broad geographic area affected
- duration of the event

What's Being Done?

The USFWS is coordinating with the UAF-Alaska Sea Grant, Kawerak, Inc., Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, National Park Service, and the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) to collect reports and monitor several beaches. To date, all bird carcasses sent to the USGS National Wildlife Health Center for examination were determined to have died of starvation. Tissues sampled during the examinations will be analyzed for harmful algal bloom toxins by the USGS Alaska Science Center. Results of those analyses will be shared this Fall.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2018 Alaska Seabird Die-off



What Can I Do?

Report observations of sick or dead birds to regional partners:

- **North Slope:** Taqulik Hepa (907) 852-0350
- **Northwest Arctic:** Cyrus Harris (907) 442-7914
- **Bering Strait region:** Brandon Ahmasuk (907) 443-4265
Gay Sheffield (907) 434-1149
- **Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta:** Jennifer Hooper (907) 543-7470
- **Bristol Bay:** Gayla Hoseth (907) 842-6252
- **Aleutian/Pribilof Islands:** Lauren Divine (907) 257-891-3031

Or report by phone or email to the USFWS:
1-866-527-3358 or AK_MBM@FWS.GOV

Information to report includes:

- Location, Time & Date observed
- Type & number of birds (count or estimate)
- Photos of sick/dead birds
- Videos of any unusual behaviors (approachable, drooping head and/or wings)

Participate in monitoring efforts on your local beaches:

COASST provides baseline information. Visit www.coasst.org.

Contributing Partners:

