NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)
 $2013 1^{st}$ $2013 2^{nd}$ $2013 3^{rd}$ $(2013 4^{th})$

<u>Grant Program, Number and Title</u>: Sub-award Number 2011-13: MAPPING THE DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT OF MARINE BIRDS IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC: PHASE 1: SUBPROJECT – SEABIRD PREDICTIVE MONITORING INTEGRATION

Organization: CONSOLIDATED SAFETY SERVICES, INC.

Project Leader: Brian Kinlan, Ph.D.

<u>Abstract</u>: Please provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) abstract that addresses EACH of the following: the objectives of your project, accomplishments to date, future plans and timelines with an estimate for when the project will be completed.

Objectives: The goal of this project is to demonstrate an improved framework for marine bird risk assessment in the U.S. North Atlantic that integrates spatial patterns in seabird occurrence and abundance with information on species-specific vulnerability and sensitivity to potential impacts from marine offshore wind development. This sub-award supports a small amount of Dr. Kinlan's time and his travel expenses to participate in relevant workshops and meetings, and to coordinate with other sub-award PIs, to make his marine bird predictive modeling results for the New York Bight and Mid-Atlantic available to demonstrate approaches for marine bird risk assessment.

Previous work: Initial discussions among sub-award PI's took place via email and phone in the 2nd guarter of 2012. In the 3rd guarter of 2012, sub-award PI's Brian Kinlan and Beth Gardner (NC State) met in Silver Spring on July 24. They discussed recent seabird modeling results and approaches and made plans for coordinated work once the NC State Postdoc is hired this Fall. These discussions continued in the 4th quarter of 2012. On December 21, 2012, a day was spent on data analysis, data processing and project-related communication. In the 1st guarter of 2013, Dr. Kinlan traveled to attend two face-to-face project-related meetings/workshops, where he presented and discussed marine bird spatial risk assessment modeling in the mid-Atlantic. These meetings included time spent in discussions with other sub-award PI's and collaborators. In February, Kinlan participated and presented in a special session on marine spatial planning and seabirds at the Pacific Seabird Group annual meeting in Portland, OR. In March, Kinlan attended and presented at the Atlantic Marine Bird Conservation Cooperative meeting in Charleston, SC. In the 2nd quarter of 2013, Dr. Kinlan conducted project related coordination and communication via an All-Hands conference call on 5/17/2013 and one-on-one emails and phone calls with NALCC project manager Scott Schwenk, PI Dick Veit, PI Bath Gardner, PI Andrew Gilbert, and other project personnel. Kinlan also wrote an abstract for a synthesis webinar planned to be given in August for the NALCC, and worked with other PI's to synthesize project results to date and begin assembling a webinar presentation. In the 3rd guarter of 2013, Kinlan organized and led a July 1 allhands conference call during which results from all other PI's were reported and synthesized and detailed plans were made for the NALCC webinar scheduled for August 8, 2013. Kinlan took the lead on followup from this call, developing an outline of the webinar and introductory material, as well as his own section. Final preparation of the webinar presentation, the webinar itself, and followup from the webinar (2 days of time on August 7-8, 2013) were covered by in-kind matching labor supported by another related project (Mid-Atlantic Seabird Modeling-USGS/BOEM/NOAA). Thus, although at least 3 days were devoted to activities related to

this project in 2013/Q3, only 1 day of support was requested from WMI for that quarter.

The abstract of the NALCC synthesis webinar, written by Kinlan, is provided below. The slides of the webinar are available on request.

NALCC WEBINAR ABSTRACT

Mapping the Distribution, Abundance and Risk Assessment of Marine Birds in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean: Phase I, Proof of Concept and Techniques Development

Beth Gardner(1), Brian Reich(1), Earvin Balderama(1), Andrew Gilbert(2), Kate Williams(2), Brian Kinlan (3), Robert Rankin (3), and Richard Veit (4)

1. NC State; 2. Biodiversity Research Institute; 3. NOAA-NCCOS-Biogeography Branch; 4. CUNY-Staten Island

In this seminar, we will discuss progress towards developing maps depicting the distribution, abundance and relative risk to marine birds from offshore activities (e.g., wind energy development) in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean. Our goal in this effort is to develop and demonstrate techniques to document and predict areas of frequent use and aggregations of birds and the relative risk to marine birds within these areas. The resulting map products are intended to help inform decisions about siting offshore facilities; marine spatial planning; and other uses requiring maps of seabird distributions. This NALCC project is supporting several components of map and technique development by leveraging several large, ongoing projects funded by BOEM, DOE, USGS, and NOAA and involving research groups at the Biodiversity Research Institute, NC State University, CUNY-Staten Island, the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and the NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science-Biogeography Branch.

Work that took place this quarter (4th quarter of 2013): The 4th quarter of 2013 is the final quarter of funding for this project. The remaining support from this sub-award (10.5h of labor from Kinlan) was used for final wrap-up of project, including direct, email, and phone correspondence with other project PI's and FWS staff and an email to other PI's summarizing accomplishments and providing links to downloadable reports and digital data packages containing all relevant results of Kinlan's predictive modeling work for marine birds in the NY Bight and U.S. Mid-Atlantic. This will facilitate other PI's work to incorporate Kinlan's work into their final products, as appropriate. Final email and phone communications emphasized linking this effort to other ongoing efforts to ensure lasting and synergistic impacts. No additional work is planned. This sub-award project was successfully completed on December 30, 2013.

Future plans and timelines: None. Project complete.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? YES

<u>Progress Achieved</u>: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments) This project has one deliverable: "Participation in project-related meetings, workshops, phone calls, and email communication". This goal was met this quarter through Kinlan's correspondence with individual PI's and FWS staff, and project wrap-up work including the provision of all NCCOS mid-atlantic marine bird modeling results to the group as part of a digital data package sent out on Dec. 30, 2013. This will facilitate other PI's work to incorporate Kinlan's work into their final products, as appropriate. Final communications emphasized linking this effort to other ongoing efforts to ensure lasting and synergistic impacts.

Difficulties Encountered: NONE

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: None.

Expected End Date: December 30, 2013

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$9,999.73

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$10,000.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? YES

Signature:

Brie P. Kint

Date: 12/30/2013

NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2013 PROGRESS REPORT

<u>Quarter:</u> (circle one) 2013 1st 2013 2nd 2013 3rd



Grant Program, Number and Title: 2011-14 Best Darn Bird Map

Organization: Biodiversity Research Institute

Project Leader: Andrew Gilbert

<u>Abstract</u>: Please provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) abstract that addresses EACH of the following: the objectives of your project, accomplishments to date, future plans and timelines with an estimate for when the project will be completed.

- The Best Darn Bird Map project will pull together existing information on marine bird distribution and abundance, including modeled distributions, vessel and aerial survey information, and data from individually marked birds, and create mapping products useful for planning uses of the marine environment, including sighting alternative energy projects.
- The objectives of our contribution to the BDBM are to 1) produce model data appropriate for BDBM and 2) deliver seabird model input for BDBM.
- We have completed processing the latest seabird data and have worked with USGS to transfer this to the Atlantic Seabird Compendium for model development. This completes the work under this project.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes.

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

1. Consult with project PI and USGS to produce model data appropriate for BDBM.

Actual - We have completed updating the seabird database with the latest survey data having now compiled 14+ datasets. We have continued cooperation with Beth Gardner to insure highest quality data as well as modeler Brian Kinlan from NOAA to plan for his future needs.

2. Deliver seabird model input for BDBM

Actual -All completed datasets have been uploaded to the Atlantic Seabird Compendium.

Difficulties Encountered: None.

<u>Activities Anticipated Next Quarter</u>: Project complete.

Expected End Date: December 2014

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$9,925.24

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$9967

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories?YES

r, lo Signature: (M

Date:

Andrew T. Gilbert 1/15/2014