**Atlantic Coast Piping Plover and Least Tern Workshop**

**National Conservation and Training Center**

**Shepherdstown, West Virginia**

**January 11-16, 2016**

**Preliminary Agenda**

This preliminary agenda is subject to change based on recommendations and requests from prospective participants. The majority of workshop time will be allocated to discussion (each time slot will provide ample time for questions and comments). To foster dissemination of new information on research and protection activities, we welcome all posters and written hand-outs. If you have an idea for a short presentation, especially one that could facilitate a discussion session, please contact Anne Hecht.

Tuesday, January 12

8:00-8:30 Welcome and introductions; housekeeping concerns

8:30-10:00 Status updates from the Atlantic Coast states – major factors affecting changes in abundance of breeding pairs and/or productivity of piping plovers and least terns since 2013

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:30 Status updates, continued

11:30-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:15 Accelerating sea-level rise, changing beach morphology, and Atlantic Coast piping plover nesting habitat (aka iPlover) – updated results from linked models, summary of future directions and pending questions

1:15-2:00 Decision-support modeling for use of piping plover exclosures – 2015 results and directions for 2016

2:00-2:45 Protection of critical New Jersey beach-nesting bird habitats in the wake of severe coastal storms – preliminary results

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-3:45 Public outreach – improving communication of complex and controversial information

3:45-4:30 Least tern survey methods, results, and continuing issues

4:30-5:00 Strange and Unusual Beach Bird Happenings Contest (shamelessly plagiarized from the Massachusetts Coastal Waterbird Cooperators)

Evening Poster session

Wednesday, January 13

8:00-8:30 Update from Eastern Canada

8:30-9:00 Inventories of inlet and beach habitat modifications – overview and tools

9:00-9:30 Conservation of rufa red knots in habitats that overlap breeding Atlantic Coast piping plovers and least terns

9:30-10:15 Updates from the U.S. and Bahamas wintering range

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:15 Monitoring methods – alternatives to improve productivity estimates

11:15-12:00 Implementation of an ongoing Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in Massachusetts and a proposed statewide programmatic HCP

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-4:30 Round-robin of 45-minute, small-group sessions on collaborative projects in progress (questions and brain-storming):

Sea-level rise modelling (iPlover)

Decision-support for exclosures

Outreach strategies and tools

Rufa red knot conservation

4:30-5:00 Outreach DVDs and YouTube features

Evening Interactive habitat assessment calibration exercise (“game”)

Thursday, January 14

8:00-8:45 Assessing habitat carrying capacity for piping plovers

8:45- 9:30 Implications of flight behavior of breeding piping plovers for risk of collisions with wind turbines

9:30-10:15 Piping plover breeding range movements and migration routes – preliminary results from 2015 nanotag studies

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:15 Updates from Great Lakes, Northern Great Plains, and Prairie Canada

11:15-12:00 Least tern presentations and discussion topics

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Afternoon:

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| Option 1  1:00-5:00 Intensive working groups (choose one):   * Sea-level rise modelling (iPlover) * Decision-support for exclosures * Outreach strategies and tools * Least terns | Option 2  1:00-2:15 Habitat modification databases – diving deeper into information and tools  2:15-3:45 Rufa red knot conservation coordination (includes break)  3:45-5:00 Conservation in the wintering range |

Evening Optional continuation of working group discussions

or

Piping Plover, Least Tern, Red Knot, and Coastal Geology Trivial Pursuit

Friday, January 15

8:00-8:30 Sea-level rise forecasting (iPlover) report-out and future directions

8:30-9:00 Predator exclosure decision support model report-out

9:00-9:30 Least tern report-out and future directions

9:30-10:00 Outreach strategies and tools report-out and future directions

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-10:45 Future directions in breeding – wintering range collaboration

10:45-11:15 Rufa red knot conservation coordination future directions

11:15-12:00 Wrap-up - future workshops, enhancing collaboration, evaluations

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