

The Marine SPA Team



Jim Reid
Head of Seabirds
& Cetaceans section



Andy Webb
Knowledge Manager



Sue O'Brien
Senior
Seabird Ecologist



Tim Dunn
Information
Manager



Ben Dean



Ilka Win



Linda Wilson



Kerstin Kober



Mark Lewis
Marine Surveyor

Seabird Ecologists

Jim Reid *Head of Seabirds and Cetaceans section*

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Despite a PhD in crow ecology and previous research experience on domestic dog scent-marking behaviour, Jim joined JNCC in 1995 as Seabirds at Sea Team Leader and took over as Head of Seabirds and Cetaceans in 1997. Immediate previous employment had been with Scottish Natural Heritage and RSPB. His main role is to manage the team and the direction of seabirds work, including the SPA programme. Regrettably, he doesn't get his hands too dirty with data analyses these days but (despite the management) remains numerate enough to make a contribution.

Andy Webb *Knowledge Manager*

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Andy joined the former Seabirds at Sea Team in 1983 after short contracts studying nesting and wintering waders in the north of Scotland. His work covers a broad remit across all aspects of the SPA work, but focusing on examining the suitability of the overall SPA network, SPAs at sea for terns and the analysis of data for potential offshore SPAs. His other work covers the management and publication of large marine datasets for seabirds and cetaceans, and providing advice on survey design for surveys of seabirds and cetaceans at sea. Andy is also the chair of the Trade Unions for JNCC

Sue O'Brien *Senior Seabird Ecologist*

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Sue O'Brien first worked for JNCC's Seabirds & Cetaceans team in 1997 and 1998, returning to join the team in 2005 after completing a PhD. Her main role, as Senior Seabird Ecologist, is to analyse inshore aerial survey data to identify the most suitable territories for inshore SPAs for aggregations of waterbirds outwith the breeding season. This includes finding and implementing optimal statistical techniques for selecting the most suitable areas. Recently her work has focused on providing advice to the country agencies and devolved administrations on inshore SPAs for red-throated divers and common scoter outwith the breeding season, as well as marine SPAs for terns during the breeding season.

Ben Dean *Seabird Ecologist*

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Ben joined the JNCC in 2001 and has since worked in several roles within the Seabirds At Sea/SPA team. The two main components of Ben's current work are the identification of important marine areas for red-throated divers during the breeding season, and the identification of important inshore areas for a range of non-breeding waterbird species. These projects involve the use and development of a range of data collection methods such as radio-tracking and aerial survey, and various analytical techniques such as kriging and spatial modelling.

Kerstin Kober *Seabird Ecologist (Offshore SPAs)*

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Kerstin is one of the most recent members of the team, she joined in January 2007. Her work is mostly concerned about the identification of important offshore areas for seabirds, which could be suitable Special Protection Areas. Kerstin's duty involves the analysis of large datasets of the ESAS (European Seabirds at Sea) database with help of a large variety of statistical and modelling techniques, and contract placement and management.

Linda Wilson *Seabird Ecologist (Inshore SPAs)*

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Linda joined the team in 2005, initially as a Marine Surveyor, but more recently as a Seabird Ecologist, with inshore SPAs forming the core of her work. Linda's work is varied and includes data analysis, report writing and fieldwork. A large component of her work is the winter survey programme in Scotland, which involves contract management of aerial, boat and land-based surveys of inshore waterbirds. Linda has also taken up the role of Communications Officer for the team, coordinating the implementation of the team's communication plan, and the team's input to the inter-agency Marine Natura Project Group.

Ilka Win *Seabird Ecologist (Inshore SPAs)*

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In March 2006 Ilka joined the Seabird At Sea/SPA team as marine surveyor and was responsible for the aerial survey programme planning, Aberdeen shore-based counts and survey navigation. Since November 2006 she has been working on inshore SPA related topics as Seabird Ecologist. Her main work focuses on assisting the inshore aerial survey programme, shore-based count contract management, data analysis and inshore SPA report writing.

Mark Lewis *Marine Surveyor*

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Mark joined the team as Marine Surveyor in March 2007. The majority of his time is spent organising and carrying out aerial surveys during the winter, and collating the data and report at other times of the year, working towards a suite of SPAs for inshore waterbirds. Mark also assists in many aspects of other projects, notably fieldwork on the red-throated diver SPA project, shore based counts and survey design.

Tim Dunn *Information Manager*

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Tim is the Information Manager for JNCC's Seabirds and Cetaceans section in Aberdeen. He was appointed in 1999 to collect, collate and manage data during the Seabird 2000 census. Tim now manages national and international datasets, including the European Seabirds at Sea database; provides IT support; and regularly assists in SPA fieldwork. Tim currently manages the Joint Cetacean Protocol project, which aims to provide a common format for cetacean datasets throughout Europe, with a view to enhancing the ability of member states to report on the conservation status of cetaceans in their waters.