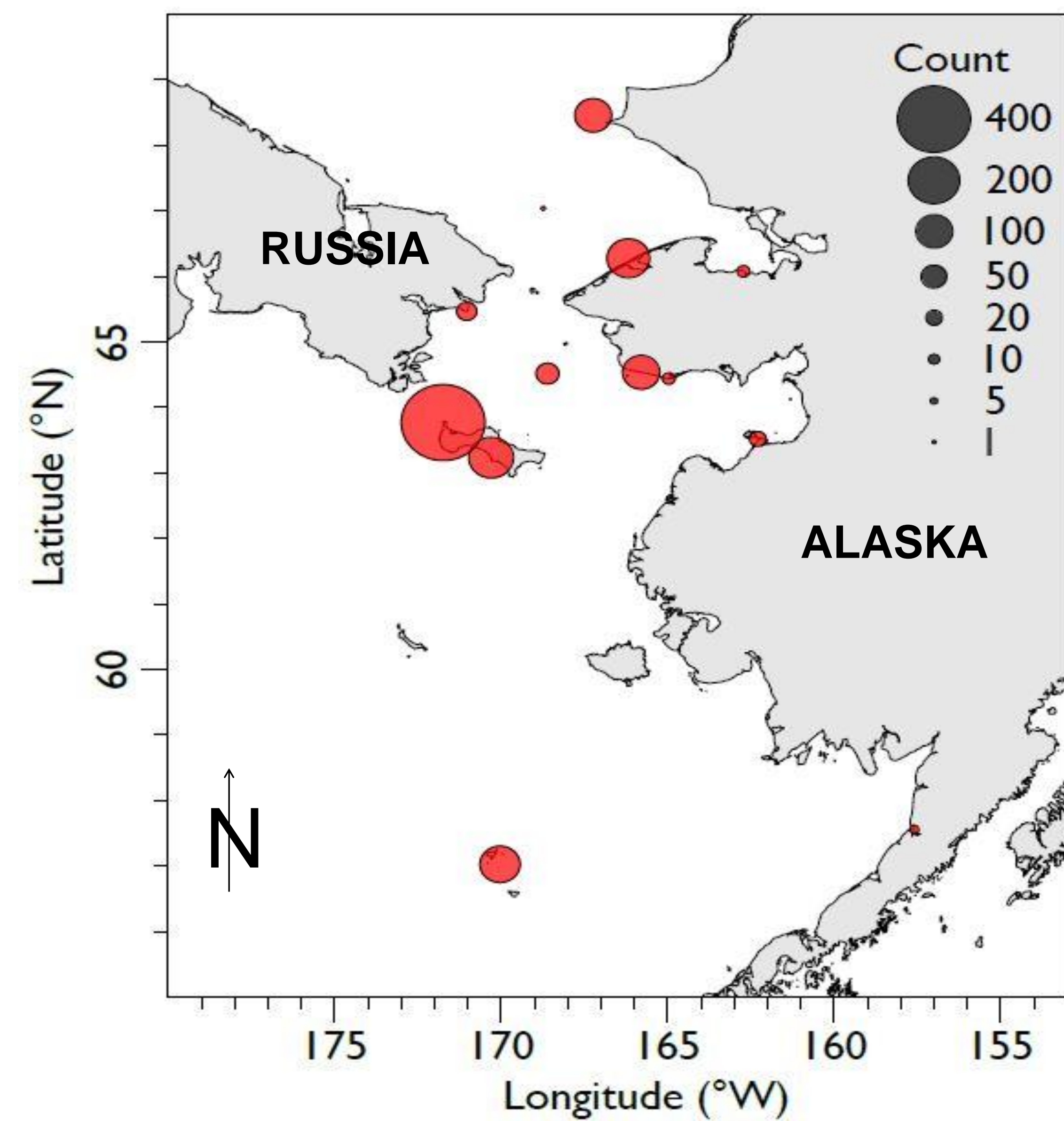




USFWS Alaska Region
 Migratory Bird Management
 1011 E. Tudor Rd.
 Anchorage AK 99503
 1-866-527-3358 (phone) AK_MBM@fws.gov

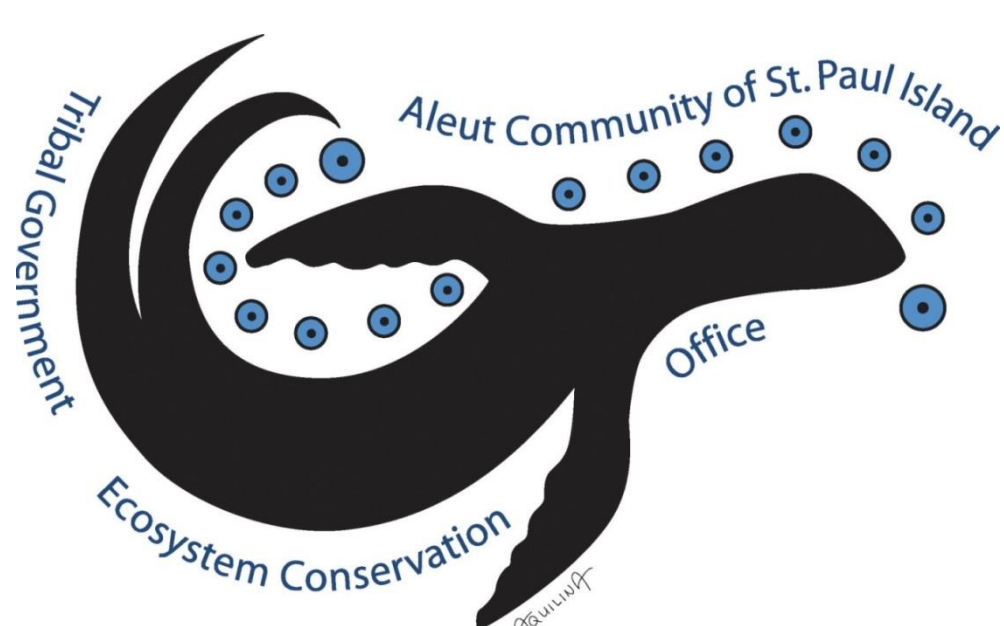
September 2017



What is Happening?

Dead and dying seabirds have been reported from Point Hope south to the Pribilof Islands. First responders in coastal communities with the USFWS, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation Office (ACSPI ECO), Kawerak, Inc., Alaska Sea Grant program and others have counted over **1200 beached seabird carcasses since early August 2017**, including northern fulmars, shearwaters, and kittiwakes. Murres and auklets have also been reported. The USFWS is coordinating with the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) to monitor beaches. ACSPI ECO and Alaska Sea Grant have collected carcasses for examination by the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC).

Contributing Partners:



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Dead and Dying Seabirds Seward Peninsula to Pribilof Islands

Species Identification



Short-tailed Shearwater

Bill: thin, dark

Body: dark

Northern Fulmar

dark morph

Bill: stocky, pale

Body: dark

Northern Fulmar

light morph

Bill: stocky, pale

Body: pale-to-white

What Do We Know?

Necropsies on 21 carcasses from Point Hope, Shishmaref, Gambell, St. George and St. Paul Islands indicate drowning and severe emaciation (empty stomachs and intestinal tracts, little body fat). To date, there is no microscopic or laboratory culture evidence of infectious disease. While examined birds appeared to have died of starvation, underlying factors (disease, toxins, lack of food) have yet to be identified. Testing of carcass tissues, including Harmful Algal Bloom toxins, is ongoing and results will be shared as soon as available.

What Can I Do?

Report unusual numbers of sick or dead birds to:

1-866-527-3358 or email AK_MBM@fws.gov

Please provide:

- Time & Date
- Location (GPS coordinates, beach length walked)
- Type/species & number of birds (count or estimate for each)
- Photos (see above; include scale if possible)
- Videos of live birds displaying unusual behaviors (lethargic, drooping head and wings, etc.)

Participate in monitoring efforts on your local beaches

The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) provides training in how to identify birds and collect data that are shared with researchers and resource management agencies. Visit www.coasst.org to learn more or contact COASST at 1-206-221-6893 or email coasst@uw.edu.