

Abstract submission guidelines

Title: bolded and sentence case (only capitalize the first word).

List of authors: list each author, first name, initials, then last name (e.g., “John R. Smith”, not “Smith, John R.”). For each author include a superscript numeral to indicate institution/affiliation, one numeral for each institution/affiliation. If the presenting author is different from the first author, indicate the presenting author with an asterisk (“*”).

List of affiliations: italicized; superscript numeral followed by the name of the affiliation/institution, city, and province/state. Do not include a postal code.

Abstract: background of the work, key methods, results, and conclusions. Maximum word count for the abstract is 250 words. No references should be included.

Keywords: list 4–6 keywords in order of relative importance to the presentation. This information along with the abstract will be used to set themes of the conference program.

Presentation format: indicate **talk** or **poster** presentation; if space is limited will you consider a poster?

General formatting guidelines:

- All text in 11-point *Times New Roman* font.
- Normal margin setting at 2.54 cm.
- Abstract sections in single spaced format with a single line between each of the six elements (e.g., title, authors, affiliations, abstract, keywords, talk/poster).
- Microsoft Word format (either “.doc” or “.docx”).
- File name of abstract submission: first authors last name, followed by the first authors first name, separated by an underscore (e.g., “Smith_John.doc”).
- **15-minute** talk with **5-minute** for questions.

Abstract template/example: please submit abstracts in the following format

Parental foraging effort of common murre (Uria aalge) under varying prey conditions

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During the breeding season, Common Murres (*Uria aalge*) in the colony of Funk Island off the island of Newfoundland's northeast coast rely heavily on capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) as their primary food source. As single prey-loading central place foragers, parental murre pursue high quality fish to feed their offspring. In 1991, capelin stocks suffered major biomass decline due to a regime shift following a pulse of anomalously cold fresh arctic water. Consequently, the percentage of gravid capelin in the chicks' diets since the 1990s has been decreasing, as have the length, mass and condition of the capelin provided by parents. This study analyzes how parental murre are responding to changes in forage fish availability and conditions by comparing changes in foraging effort over two years. We hypothesize that parental murre will show marked differences in foraging effort under a year of poor prey (2016) when capelin failed to spawn in the area compared to a year of better prey availability (2014). GPS trackers were attached to 9 murre parents in 2014 and to 6 in 2016. The maximum and total distance travelled from the colony, and number of dives per foraging trip were analyzed as measurements of foraging effort. Preliminary analyses and a decreasing trend in parental body weights suggests that parents have increased foraging efforts with deteriorating prey conditions to help ensure offspring growth and condition.

Keywords: ornithology, seabirds, aquatic ecology, predator-prey dynamics.

Presentation format: talk (will consider poster presentation if space is limited)