

## **PREFACE**

This publication contains the abstracts of the orals and posters presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Seabird Group anniversary meeting held in Bruges, Belgium, from 27-30 March 2009. The conference was co-organized by the Seabird Group, the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) and the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO).

The Seabird Group Conference strives to bring together an international group of people with a common interest for the study and the conservation of seabirds. The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting treated a broad spectrum of themes, ranging from breeding ecology, feeding ecology and energetics via conservational aspects to distribution, migration and population ecology of seabirds. The meeting was opened with a key note speech by Chris Perrins on the history of the Seabird Group. During the next two days, 32 selected speakers from 13 different countries presented their studies during oral sessions and more than 30 studies were presented during the poster-sessions.

I wish to thank all the authors of the submitted abstracts for their interest in the conference. I would like to thank all who helped in numerous ways before, during and after the conference, the conference secretariat, the scientific committee and the conference chairs for their valuable contributions. I gratefully acknowledge the generous sponsoring by the Seabird Group and the INBO. Special thanks go to the VLIZ for offering their facilities, for developing and hosting the conference website and to the staff of the INBO and VLIZ for offering their organizing talent. I am especially grateful to Ingrid Dobbelaere, Norman Ratcliffe and Jan Seys. Their dedicated and enthusiastic efforts made this symposium to a success.

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