

## **Seabirds in the Marine Environment**

*A Symposium organised by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Seabird Group*

There has been much intensive research on the breeding biology of seabirds, but despite their role as important predators at the top of the marine food chain, our knowledge of seabirds and their marine ecology remains patchy. Good knowledge of the life history of seabirds at sea is seen as crucial to a complete understanding of this ecosystem and this Symposium aims to report on current progress in ecological research on seabirds at sea. There will be several important themes of the Sympo-

sium, but the overall focus will embrace all aspects of seabird biology at sea, including the nature of seabirds dispersion, the identification of physical and biological processes that govern patterns of dispersion, and foraging and feeding ecology of seabirds at sea. Energetic studies of seabirds at sea and the impact of fishing and fisheries on seabirds also will be significant themes. Breeding biology will not be excluded from the Symposium programme, but it will have as its main focus the activities of birds away from the breeding site or colony.

The Symposium has four main objectives:

- 1) Critically review recent themes in the ecology of seabirds at sea and suggest future directions,
- 2) To report on current scientific research in marine ornithology,
- 3) To provide a forum for scientists to meet and discuss issues in seabird research,
- 4) To serve as a platform for seabird ecologists to communicate the results of their work

Contributions to the Symposium will be of three kinds. Invited oral presentations on selected topics will be given by acknowledged leaders in their respective fields, submitted oral presentations will follow the invited contributions in the thematic, non-overlapping sessions. Posters, again on any relevant topic, will be displayed during the symposium. The scientific programme of the Symposium will be organised by a committee comprising C.J. Camphuysen (Netherlands), R.W. Furness (UK), G.L. Hunt Jr (USA), J.B. Reid (UK), and M.L. Tasker (UK). The proceedings of the Symposium will be published as a special volume in the ICES Symposium Series. Invited and submitted presentations will be selected for publication following a peer review process. Poster abstracts will also be published.

The Symposium is jointly organised by International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES, Copenhagen), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (UK) and the Seabird Group (UK). The Symposium will take place in the Department of Zoology, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, from 22-24 November 1996. Abstracts of all contributions are expected 1 May 1996, full texts of all contributions no later than 1 October 1996. People who wish to attend the Symposium, or who would like to contribute an oral presentation or poster should contact the scientific committee:

**Dr J.B. Reid**, '*Seabirds in the Marine Environment*', Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 17 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen AB1 1XE, tel. + 44 1224 642863, fax + 44 1224 621488, e-mail jim.reid@aberdeen.ac.uk