

This document was compiled by the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development Secretariat. It includes an excerpt from the submission:

Offshore Wind Regional Assessment Requests for Advice: Product Descriptions and Context for Interpretation

Provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service to the Committees for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia and Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador

November 30, 2023

The full submission was provided to the Committee in confidence, as per the Committee's [Confidentiality Procedures](#).

2.1.4 Extralimital Marine Birds

The Newfoundland and Labrador RA Committee requested information on marine and migratory birds that are generally known to occur in the study area, including **species considered extralimital (e.g., White-tailed Tropicbird)**. Extralimital species are those that are not considered common within the RA Study Areas, however, are known to occasionally occur in the Atlantic Region. Examples of such species include White-tailed Tropicbird, as well as Bermuda, Zioni's, Desertas, and Black-capped Petrels. Note that ECCC-CWS-ATL are working with external partners to access and present additional products on extralimital Petrel species.

2.1.4.1 White-tailed Tropicbird Density

Product Objective

These maps show densities of White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*) within the study area. This species is a medium-sized seabird that is white with black marks on the wings, and a yellow beak. Long, white tail streamers are clearly visible during flight. This species often nests on cliffs of rocky islands, remaining close to shore during nesting periods and otherwise spending significant time at sea. Timing of occurrence in the Atlantic Region is spring and summer and individuals can be forced inland during inclement weather and hurricanes. White-tailed Tropicbird Density.

The following data source was used to produce the map:

- Mejías et al. 2017. Distribution and at-sea behavior of Bermudan White-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon lepturus catesbyi*) during the non-breeding season.

Methodology

The maps display seasonal densities of White-tailed Tropicbird tagged using GLS. These products include point kernel density estimates for late summer and fall/winter. A total of 60 birds were tagged in breeding sites in Bermuda in 2014 and 2015. Of these, 39 entered the study area. Kernel density estimates were produced using a cell size of 5,000 m and a search radius of 40,000 m.

Context and Interpretation

Spatial Distribution: This White-tailed Tropicbird movement model shows an overlap with the eastern/ southeastern limit of the RA Study Area.

Temporal Distribution: White-tailed Tropicbird movements were assessed by season: spring, late summer and fall and winter. Only late summer, fall, and winter seasons overlapped the RA Study Areas. Densities are lower during late summer.

Assumptions and Caveats

- Densities were based on data from a single tracking study.
- The accuracy of GLS tags is ± 150 km.



