



**3RD NORTH AMERICAN
SEA DUCK CONFERENCE**

NOVEMBER 10-14 2008 • QUÉBEC CITY

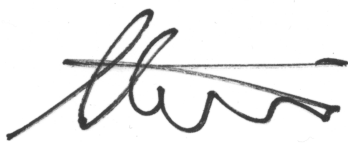
WELCOME TO THE THIRD NORTH AMERICAN SEA DUCK CONFERENCE

We are honoured to welcome you to Québec City, for the Third North American Sea Duck Conference. The conference is jointly hosted by Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service and Science & Technology, Québec Region) and the Regroupement QuébecOiseaux, which represents birdwatcher societies and individuals interested in bird conservation. The conference is made possible because of the generous contribution of several sponsors. We sincerely thank all of them for their engagement.

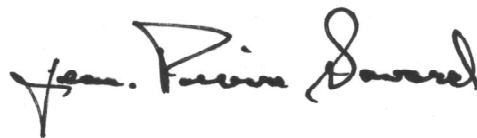
We are fortunate to have four excellent plenary speakers from Europe and North America along with 66 oral presentations and 48 posters covering a variety of species and topics related to sea ducks. We are pleased that our programme avoids concurrent sessions, thus allowing participants to attend all presentations. This is a rare opportunity these days at a scientific meeting. Please take advantage of this unusual aggregation of sea duck enthusiasts to learn new things, renew friendships and create new ones.

We hope you will take some time to discover Québec City, which is celebrating its 400th anniversary in 2008. Québec City (from *Kébec*, an Algonquin word meaning “place where the river narrows”) is the cradle of French civilization in North America and one of the world’s most enchanting cities, with its unequalled historical and cultural heritage. We highly recommend participants to take time to visit the historic walled Old-Québec, located in close proximity to Château Laurier, the conference headquarters.

The success of the Third North American Sea Duck Conference is now in your hands. Sit back, listen, learn, discuss, argue and enjoy.



Michel Robert
Chair, Organizing Committee



Jean-Pierre L. Savard
Chair, Scientific Committee

2.4 OBIS-SEAMAP as a Toolbox for Managing Sea Duck Tracking Data

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Our ability to understand, conserve and manage marine biodiversity is fundamentally limited by the availability of relevant taxonomic, distribution and abundance data. The OBIS-SEAMAP is a web-based geo-database of marine mammal, seabird (including sea ducks) and sea turtle distribution and abundance data globally. The OBIS-SEAMAP information system is aimed to support research, management and conservation of marine megavertebrates through promoting scientific data commons and providing users with a broad array of web-based products and services. The database supports georeferenced data of animal distributions at sea, colony based counts and tracking information and is open to all marine biologists sharing vision of data commons and partnership. Boat, shore and aerial surveys and telemetry data are submitted by government, academic, industry and non-profit providers by communicating directly with archive developers and using data content management system. Contributing satellite tracking information might seem particularly appealing to sea duck investigators and ongoing tracking data could be assimilated directly through Satellite Tracking and Analysis Tool (STAT). The OBIS-SEAMAP archive is equipped with multi-faceted data search and extraction, state-of-art online mapping and cutting edge viewing features, including animated animal movements, which will be demonstrated at the Sea Duck Conference using a sample of an actual sea duck tracking dataset. Contributed datasets are standardized, integrated with rich species profiles and compliant metadata. In addition to benefiting from the toolset available at OBIS-SEAMAP, data contributors increase their visibility, public outreach and develop potential for new collaborations. We encourage you to contribute your datasets to OBIS-SEAMAP and to contact us with suggestions of how to refine and improve the archive. The OBIS-SEAMAP database is accessible online at: <http://seamap.env.duke.edu>.