



## **COURSE SYLLABUS : CANADA - SEABIRD OBSERVER**

**Instructor:** TBD  
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(709)-770-0492

### **Course Description:**

This course shall focus on the “Eastern Canada seabirds at sea (ECSAS) standardized protocol for pelagic seabird surveys from moving and stationary platforms” (Gjerdrum et al, 2012). This course includes a field exercise component.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course trainees should be able to:

- 🐦 Identify seabirds and accurately assess their range and movements
- 🐦 Identify various seabird behaviour
- 🐦 Understand and interpret the “Eastern Canada seabirds at sea (ECSAS) standardized protocol for pelagic seabird surveys from moving and stationary platforms” (Gjerdrum et al, 2012)
- 🐦 Fill out various recording pro forma and create daily, weekly and final reports
- 🐦 Understand various offshore oil and gas activities in which SO’s would be required and have the ability to communicate this rationale
- 🐦 Understand and communicate proper bird handling techniques with specific focus on the Leach’s Storm Petrel

### **Learning Outcomes:**

The course will include the following learning outcomes:

- 🐦 Seabird identification
- 🐦 Parameters relating to the ecology of seabirds found within and along the continental shelf
- 🐦 Instruction on how to complete recording pro forma
- 🐦 Essential information to include within the seabird report
- 🐦 Review of Leach’s Storm Petrel protocol and bird handling techniques
- 🐦 Required equipment and specification

### **Pre-Requisites:**

There are no formal pre-requisites for this course. It is recommended personnel have a general knowledge of seabird biology and identification.

### **Course Material:**

All course material will be provided. This includes all presentation material and various supplemental documents.

### **Required Course Reading:**

BEFORE ATTENDING it is required that all trainees have reviewed:

- 🐦 “Eastern Canada seabirds at sea (ECSAS) standardized protocol for pelagic seabird surveys from moving and stationary platforms” (Gjerdrum et al, 2012)

It is also highly recommended that trainees have familiarized themselves with general species knowledge before attending.

### **Required Items:**

It is expected that all trainees will arrive to the course with the following items:

- 🐦 A seabird identification guide. (See Pg. 4 for recommendations)
- 🐦 Clothing suitable for inclement weather (this will be required for the field portion of the course)  
Suggested items include: Light layers of cotton, wool or breathable material. Rain pants and jacket. Hat. Gloves. Sunglasses. Sunscreen. Waterproof footwear.
- 🐦 A suitable (water resistant) bag to store items
- 🐦 Wrist watch
- 🐦 Binoculars (7x50 or better preferred) *\*be aware: binoculars with magnification powers greater than 10 amplify the movements of your hands, making steady viewing difficult.*
- 🐦 A clear ruler

### **Host Facility:**

The course will be conducted at Dovre Canada. 5 Hill O'Chips, St. John's, NL. A1C 0A8

**Schedule:**

Instruction will be conducted 9am – 5pm each day of the course with a one hour lunch break in the middle of the day. Other shorter breaks will be given as appropriate to the course being conducted.

**Grading Scheme and Evaluation:**

Module Exams:	30%
Final Exam:	40%
Practical (at sea)	30%

Trainees require a minimum of 60% (total) to pass the course.



### **Identification Guide Recommendations**

- 1) Collins Field Guide: Birds of North America  
Author: Norman Arlott  
ISBN-10: 0007293348  
ISBN-13: 978-0007293346  
Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers (2011)
  
- 2) The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
Author: David Sibley  
ISBN-10: 0307957918  
ISBN-13: 978-0307957917  
Publisher: Knopf; 2nd ed. edition (March 2016)
  
- 3) Birds of Newfoundland: Field Guide  
Authors: Ian Warkentin (Author), Sandy Newton (Author), Roger Peterson (Illustrator)  
ISBN-10: 0980914426  
ISBN-13: 978-0980914429  
Publisher: Boulder Publications (April 2013)
  
- 4) National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America (7<sup>th</sup> edition)  
Authors: Jon L. Dunn and Jonathan Alderfer  
ISBN-10: 1426218354  
ISBN-13: 978-1426218354  
Publisher: National Geographic; 7 edition (Sept 2017)