



Dr. T. Gaston
Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Research Centre
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H3
Canada

Aweg 30
P.O.Box 716
9700 AS Groningen
The Netherlands
Telephone: + 31 50 363 68 34
Telefax: + 31 50 363 49 00

Dr. Maarten J.J.E. Loonen
m.j.j.e.loonen@biol.rug.nl
<http://loonen.fmns.rug.nl>
Mobile: +31 6 205 507 16
Private: +31 50 5341 690

Groningen, 22 March 2006

Dear Tony,

I have read with interest your IPY-project "An early-warning system for detecting Arctic marine ecosystem change through the use of top predators - component of Ecosystem Studies of Subarctic and Arctic Regions". Success of your project would be an enormous help to meet the goals of the International IPY-endorsed project "Health of Arctic and Antarctic bird populations" (BIRDHEALTH). As initiator and international coordinator of this program, I look forward to your collaboration in providing parasite material from marine birds in the Eastern Canadian Arctic and in testing various health measures on colonially breeding arctic seabirds.



Tomorrow, we have a workshop in the Netherlands where we will further develop a protocol and a structure for organising the analyses. I will disseminate the results of this workshop a.s.a.p. via the project website www.birdhealth.nl, so we can benefit from your comments again. The success of your project can help us to get a circumpolar coverage in sampling and the necessary background on the fitness of the sampled individuals.

All the best,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maarten Loonen".

Dr. Maarten J.J.E. Loonen