Interactive comment on “Seabirds as samplers of the marine environment – a case study in Northern Gannets” by Stefan Garthe et al.

H. Brix (Editor)
holger.brix@hzg.de

Received and published: 4 November 2016

In addition to the very helpful comments by the two reviewers I would like to encourage the authors to see to the following points:

- the quantitative results of this manuscript should be backed up by statistical analyses of the data used. So far it reads more like a collection of case studies. It would also be nice to see statistically based error estimates where feasible.

- the manuscript does not reference “outside” data, nor does it provide a comparison with other studies either on the same species or location.

- no use is made of the data sets available in COSYNA or, for instance, through the Helgoland Roads time-series station. As this paper is part of the COSYNA special issue C1
the link to and synergies with the other components of COSYNA should be discussed, for the past as well as with regard to a future potential for cooperation.

Some minor comments are to be found in the annotated manuscript.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:
http://www.ocean-sci-discuss.net/os-2016-22/os-2016-22-EC1-supplement.pdf