

Important issues happening in China for Alaska shorebirds (1)

Summary compiled by Hebo Peng (hebo.peng@nioz.nl) to update the Alaska Shorebird Group

- ❑ 12 sites were listed as Sites for phase II of World Heritage application in the Yellow Sea of China, including YaluJiang (important for Bar-tailed Godwits), Nanpu (important for Red Knots), Yellow River delta (Important for Red Knots and Bar-tailed Godwits), Shuangtaizi (Important for Red knots and Bar-tailed Godwits)

Sites for phase II of World Heritage application in the Yellow Sea of China



China

North Korea

South Korea

Yellow Sea

Shuangtaizi (Panjin), Liaoning

Geziwo, Hebei

Shihenan island, Hebei

Golden coast, Hebei

Yalujiang, Liaoning

Changshan islands, Liaoning

Shedao, Liaoning

Nanpu, Hebei

Nandagang, Hebei

Beidagang, Tianjin

Yellow River Delta, Shandong

Chongmingdongtan, Shanghai



Important issues happening in China for Alaska shorebirds (2)

- Benthos densities were still very low in Yalu Jiang which is the most important staging site for Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica baueri*)

From 2012, the benthos were dramatically declined more than 90% in Yalu Jiang, after 8 years, there are no signal showed it will be recovered.

Important issues happening in China for Alaska shorebirds (3)

- ❑ Land reclamation has almost stopped along Chinese coast, but our long-term monitoring showed the benthos density along the coast are still declining

The monitoring were conducted by us at 23 sites along China's coast from 2015, which indicates more than 70% sites declined in benthos density, only one site showed increase. Other issues (e.g., pollution, aquaculture) may still Threaten the food of shorebirds that stage along Chinese coast



Benthos monitoring sites along Chinese coast



Important issues happening in China for Alaska shorebirds (4)

□ More and more strong national actions in protecting the China coast
Such as the wetland restoration in Shuangtaizi, Panjin. More than 40 km² of sea cucumber ponds were removed in June 2020, these ponds were built on reclamation of intertidal mudflats. More restoration projects are on the way.

Fan et al. 2020. Function of restored wetlands for waterbird conservation in the Yellow Sea coast. *Science of the total environment*:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.144061>



Shuangtaizi (Panjin), Liaoning



7 km

Important issues happening in China for Alaska shorebirds (5)

- ❑ the cleanup of invasive *Spartina alterniflora* had been discussed by the national government, more policies will be conducted
- ❑ Mao et al. 2019. Rapid invasion of *Spartina alterniflora* in the coastal zone of Mainland China: Spatiotemporal patterns and human prevention. *Sensors* 19: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/s19102308>

Recap of issues

- ❑ invasive *Spartina alterniflora* (Prof. Ma's number 1 issue)
- ❑ extent and impact of hunting on *baueri* godwits in AK and how that interacts with other threats throughout EAAF (Prof. Fuller's number 1)
- ❑ wetland restoration at the expense of natural tidal wetlands with abundant shorebird food = government actions favor waterbird vs. shorebird habitats
- ❑ World Heritage designation is nice but no management plans in place for shorebirds yet