

The Northern Gannet



- **Largest seabird in the North Atlantic – has 2 metre wingspan**
- **Long-lived about – 20 – 30 years or older**
- **Monogamous with low divorce rate – better stats than humans**
- **One of only 3 gannet colonies in Newfoundland and of only 6 in North America**
- **Other colonies are in Iceland, Norway Ireland, UK and France**
- **Lays a single white egg**
- **Many nests contain plastic debris [fishing line, nets, strapping] that can entangle birds**
- **Chicks remain in the nest for more than 3 months**
- **Plunge dives from heights of up to 25 meters at rocket-speeds to catch fish**
- **Feed on capelin, mackerel, herring, Atlantic saury and squid**
- **Chicks - pre-fledglings [12 – 13 weeks] are heavier than their parents**
- **At 12 – 13 weeks chicks refuse food from parents and begin wing-flapping**
- **In late September – early October the young jump off cliffs while the parents remain**
- **Gannets winter off the eastern North American coast – Maine to Texas – and some off the west coast of Africa**

