

Pacific Seabird Group



DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

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Ms. Anne Badgley
Regional Director
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Region 1
Eastside Federal Complex
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

Re: Petition to List Xantus's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) as Threatened

Dear Ms. Badgley:

With this letter, and on behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG), we petition the U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service to list the Xantus's Murrelet as Threatened under the United States Endangered Species Act.

The Pacific Seabird Group is a non-profit scientific organization dedicated to the study and conservation of seabirds and their marine environment. PSG is an international organization that was founded in 1972 to promote knowledge, study and conservation of Pacific seabirds. PSG takes an international perspective in recognizing that the oceans are tied together by the wandering of seabirds and the flow of ocean currents. Accordingly, our membership is drawn from the entire Pacific basin, including Canada, Russia, Japan, China, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. Among PSG's members are biologists who have research interests in Pacific seabirds, government officials who manage seabird populations, and individuals who are active in marine conservation. As you may know, PSG is particularly interested in the conservation of Xantus's Murrelet; for example we have written letters to several federal

officials in support of the eradication of rodents in the Channel islands to protect the nesting grounds of this species.

In 1992, PSG formed the Xantus's Murrelet Technical Committee, a group of biologists and resource managers, to synthesize available data on this species and to evaluate existing and potential threats. The committee has met annually since 1992 to update and refine this information. Throughout this process, information gaps have been identified and the outcome of various research projects closely followed. Although data gaps still exist, we now believe that there is sufficient information to warrant consideration by the Service for listing the species.

The attached petition reflects the considerable efforts of the Xantus's Murrelet Technical Committee and PSG to assemble all available information relevant to consideration for listing; included are references and sources of unpublished data. At our annual meeting this past February, and after more than two years of review, the PSG Executive Council voted unanimously to submit the petition to the Service. Accordingly, we submit it to you here, with an offer to work with you to provide additional information or to clarify issues that might arise during the listing process. We hope you might be able to keep us advised regarding the passage of milestones as the process proceeds. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to following the listing process closely.

Sincerely,

Lisa T. Ballance, Ph.D.
Chair, Pacific Seabird Group

William T. Everett
Co-Chair, Xantus's Murrelet Technical Committee