

Pacific Seabird Group



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

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Charles Pelizza
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231
Honolulu, HI 96850

Re: Conservation Plan for Howard, Baker and Jarvis National Wildlife Refuges

Dear Mr. Pelizza:

On behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG), I am writing to inform you of our interest in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's comprehensive conservation plan for Howland Island, Baker Island, and Jarvis Island national wildlife refuges. PSG is an international non-profit organization that was founded in 1972 to promote knowledge, study and conservation of Pacific Ocean seabirds. PSG takes a broad international perspective in recognition that the oceans are tied together by the wandering of seabirds and the flow of ocean currents. Our membership is drawn from the entire Pacific basin, including Mexico, Canada, Russia, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. Among PSG's members are biologists who have research interests in Pacific seabirds, government officials who manage seabird refuges and populations and individuals who are interested in marine conservation.

PSG's primary interests with respect to these refuges is that they remain predator-free to facilitate the protection of the unique and important seabird colonies there. To facilitate this goal, the islands should remain generally closed to the public and should be regularly monitored to determine seabird numbers and to maintain a predator-free environment. Some of our members have bird count data that will be useful to see how the seabird populations have responded to feral cat elimination. When you reach that point in the process please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Craig S. Harrison
Vice Chair for Conservation