

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Team 645 "G" Street, Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 278-8012 Fax: (907) 276-7178



April 7, 1992

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Mr. Craig Harrison Vicechair - Conservation Pacific Seabird Group 3731 N 6th Rd. Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group regarding the Exxon Valdez settlement funds and seabirds in the North Pacific Ocean.

Over the last two years the Trustee Council has invited and received many comments from the public about how restoration funds should be spent. The letter you referred to from the seabird group was received and the recommendations were considered.

In mid-April the Trustee Council will release Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration: Volume I, Restoration Framework. I have added your name to the mailing list to receive this document, and I encourage the seabird group to review and comment on it.

Among the 34 restoration options described in the *Restoration Framework* are options concerning the acquisition of marine bird colonies, acquisition of timbered habitats, and removal of introduced predators on islands important to seabirds. These three options were ones cited by the seabird group. Other options also will be of interest, including exploring the feasibility of various techniques to hasten the recovery of murre colonies.

Although detailed results of the Natural Resources Damage assessment studies are still being held confidential, the *Restoration Framework* will contain a summary of injuries that updates the document that was released in March 1991. Additional information will be available in the study justifications described in *Volume II: 1992 Work Plan*, which will be released concurrently with the framework. We look forward to the time when the damage assessment principal investigators will be able to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals.

Thank you also for your interest in the public advisory group. Although we are not yet able to accept formal nominations, you will receive notice of that opportunity and are invited to submit a nomination at that time. The Trustee Council has agreed that environmental, conservation, and academic interests should be among those represented on the public advisory group.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope that this reply is responsive to your concerns and interests.

Sincerely,

David R. Gibbons, PhD

Interim Administrative Director