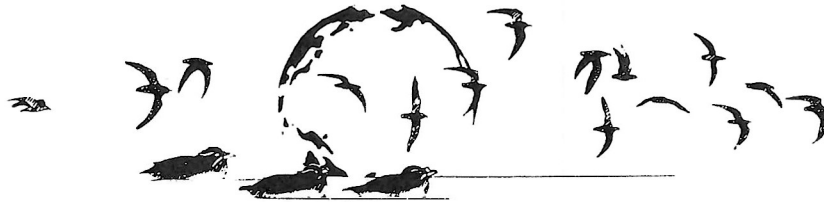

Pacific Seabird Group



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

Craig S. Harrison
Vice Chairman for Conservation
3731 North 6th Road
Arlington, Virginia 22203

April 29, 1992

John Martin, Refuge Manager
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
2355 Kachemak Drive
Homer, Alaska 99603

Dear Mr. Martin:

We have recently been in contact with Regional Director Walter Stieglitz concerning the fox removal program in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Enclosed for your information are the Pacific Seabird Group's letter to Mr. Stieglitz and his response. We are writing to you directly to express PSG's continuing desire to work with the refuge and the Migratory Bird Office in developing and implementing a program designed to remove alien rats, foxes and other predators from present and former seabird colonies.

Mr. Stieglitz' letter mentioned that FWS is considering the use of toxicants to ensure successful and efficient eradication of introduced foxes from the Aleutian Islands. PSG would like to take an active role in supporting FWS' efforts to register the use of appropriate toxicants for this purpose. To assist PSG's decision and participation in this matter, please provide us with

- the names of the toxicants that FWS is considering registering for foxes and other predators
- the names of the FWS officials (both in Alaska and Washington DC) who will be involved in the registration process and
- a schedule for registering the toxicants, including a time line that includes milestones for all necessary steps.

PSG hopes to ensure that the seabird breeding colonies in Alaska are restored to their natural biodiversity during the next few years. We believe that funds for predator removal may be available from any or all of the following:

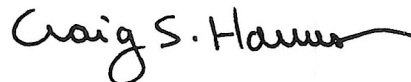
- normal refuge appropriations
- add-on appropriations specific to this task
- funds from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (which may be awarded to FWS, PSG or another organization).

Where PSG is able to, we would like to assist you in securing funding for predator removal. In order to ensure that this important work can be accomplished in a timely manner, it is essential that FWS have the necessary tools when funds become available. For this reason, we urge FWS to begin the registration process immediately.

We must caution, however, that PSG's support of the use of toxicants will be strictly limited to restoring the natural biodiversity of seabird colonies that have been harmed by introduced predators. We are concerned that FWS seems to have placed more importance on the removal of native foxes from the Y-K delta than the removal of alien foxes and rats from seabird colonies. We urge FWS to maintain scrupulously its biological credibility with respect to fox control programs in Alaska and elsewhere. If, for example, the Y-K delta program cannot be justified biologically, PSG's support for removal of introduced foxes and rats in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge could be seriously compromised.

We thank you for your interest in this important matter and look forward to working with you and your staff. Please feel free to call me at (202) 955-1500.

Sincerely,



Craig S. Harrison

Enclosures

cc George Constantino