



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



RF4702JAS

APR 02 1992

Craig S. Harrison
Pacific Seabird Group
3731 North 6th Road
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Dear Mr. Harrison:

This responds to your March 6, 1992, letter to Secretary of the Interior Manual Lujan, Jr., expressing your concern for removal of alien rats and foxes from the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. The Secretary has asked me to respond to your concerns.

As I stated in my March 13, 1992, letter to you, (copy enclosed) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received significantly less funding this fiscal year than we did last year for the operation of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Before we were aware of this funding cut, we had planned to perform \$50,000 worth of fox control work on the refuge as part of a continuing program to remove alien predators. Although we did not receive those funds we have now reprogrammed other refuge staff and funds in order to remove foxes from Bobrof Island and, if time permits, from Ugamak Island.

We are considering the use of toxicants to ensure successful and efficient eradication of introduced foxes from the Aleutian Islands. We may need your support should we decide to use that method and seek registration of appropriate toxicants. If you have additional questions on our fox removal program please contact the Refuge Manager, John Martin, in Homer, Alaska, at (907)235-6546, or our Associate Manager of Refuges and Wildlife, George Constantino, at (907) 786-3357.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

Enclosure