

Pacific Seabird Group



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

March 3, 1992

Dave Gibbons
Interim Administrator
Oil Spill Office
645 G. Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Gibbons,

The Pacific Seabird Group is a scientific non-profit organization with over 500 members including 54 Alaskans. Our primary interest is the scientific study and conservation of seabirds of the North Pacific Ocean. Collectively, our knowledge about seabirds and the effects of oil spills, including the Exxon Valdez is considerable. We want meaningful restoration accomplished with monies from the Exxon Valdez settlement and feel there are opportunities.

Last year we sent a letter to the Restoration Planning Office with ideas of restoration projects to be considered. No response was received. In that letter, we emphasized three very practical ways restoration could be accomplished: 1) Purchase of timber areas which are important to the nesting of marbled murrelets, bald eagles, etc. 2) purchase of seabird colonies - many small islands in and near the spill area are privately owned (see Table 1), and 3) removal of introduced predators, such as foxes, and rats (see Table 2). Once predators are removed that seabirds and other wildlife will recover rapidly. This is well documented for Alaskan islands that the U.S. fish and Wildlife Service has removed foxes.

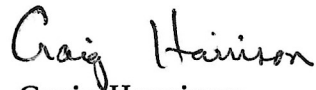
We are interested in the Advisory Group that is being formed and want to be considered for membership. With 54 Alaskan members, we will be able to have someone local attend Advisory Group meeting. Our main concern is that it be set up in such a way to allow for meaningful input into the Trustee Council and that it fairly represent different interests.

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With public meeting coming up and the decision process started on how to spend restoration money, we strongly urge scientific data on the spill be released as soon as possible. This information is vital the good decision making and the public has a right to know the real impacts. Studies which show continued environment impacts of the spill should be continued so the true long-term impacts of the spill are known.

If you have ant further questions please contact me at (202) 955-1500 or Art Sowls at (907) 235-5958.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Harrison".

Craig Harrison
3731 N. 6th Rd.
Arlington, VA 22203

TABLE 1. SEABIRD COLONIES TO PURCHASE.

NAME	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	TOTAL SEABIRDS
THE TRIPLETS	152.4733	57.9861	109115
GULL ISLAND	151.3264	59.5844	17173
HIGH ISLAND	162.3228	54.8117	135316
MIDDLETON ISLAND	146.3244	59.4361	154146
POA ISLAND	165.4983	54.1283	41299
TANGIK ISLAND	165.4853	54.1444	25810
PUFFIN ISLAND	165.5222	54.1397	36535
ANANIULIAK ISLAND	168.9028	53.0078	23633
TUGIDAK ISLAND**	154.5	56.5	3740
CHINIAK ISLAND & ROCKS	152.145	57.6342	17895
CHERNI GROUP	162.3647	54.6367	9390
BROTHERS ISLANDS (EASTERN)	158.8233	55.9231	15300
PUFFIN ISLAND	153.3567	57.0058	10515
KEKUR ISLAND	152.3003	57.6508	2248
SVITLAK ISLAND	152.3528	57.6333	1366
CATHEDRAL ISLAND	153.1328	57.2003	6008
AMEE ISLAND	153.1878	57.2022	2004
UTESISTOI ISLAND	152.3664	57.6258	2372
SHEEP ISLAND	153.2392	57.2172	1791
ADUGAK ISLAND	169.1622	52.9097	877
MIDDLE ISLAND	152.3481	57.645	482
JOHN ISLAND	153.4578	57.1083	2054
NUT ISLAND	153.1558	57.205	864
CUB ISLAND	153.2025	57.2119	424
SUNSTROM ISLAND	154.14	56.6892	1275
BROTHERS ISLANDS (WESTERN)	158.8528	55.9294	1446
CAPE DARBY	162.7881	64.3306	1365
CAPE DENBIGH SOUTH	161.5258	64.3828	8976
CAPE DENBIGH NORTH	161.5264	64.4128	7279
KING ISLAND	168.0547	64.9764	245910
UNNAMED ISLAND	163.8186	66.3006	100
FOX ISLAND	162.4261	54.9553	Present
TILLIMOOK ROCK, OREGON	124.0186	45.9375	6072

** TUGIDAK ISLAND IS ALASKA STATE OWNED. MINERAL LEASES NEED TO PURCHASED. TUGIDAK IS VERY IMPORTANT TO WATERFOWL AND IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST HARBOR SEAL ROOKERY.

Table 2. Islands for which introduced foxes should be eliminated to restore seabird colonies and other wildlife.

Island	Acreage	Miles of shoreline	Fox species
Kasatochi	717	5.7	arctic
Bobrof	1,980	8.2	arctic
Gareloi	16,964	19.4	arctic
Herbert	13,790	19.0	arctic
Segula	8,192	15.9	arctic
Semisopochnoi	56,013	40.0	arctic
Ugamak	3,200	14.1	arctic
Kagamil	10,342	17.4	arctic
Amatignak	8,533	16.2	arctic
Ulak (West)	7,646	18.4	arctic
Little Koniuji	14,055	41.0	arctic
Inikla	80	2.0	arctic
Elma	716	6.0	arctic
Simeonof	10,000	24.0	arctic
Little Tanaga	17,852	60.3	arctic
Little Sitkin	15,701	21.7	arctic
Seguam	53,292	41.0	arctic
Yunaska	43,520	38.6	arctic
Great Sitkin	39,219	43.4	arctic
Kagalaska	29,355	62.1	arctic
Chernabura	7,440	18.0	arctic
Chuginadak	42,257	46.2	red
Kanaga	91,716	114.6	arctic
Tanaga	128,000	130.5	arctic
Ukolnoi	11,520	20.0	red