



Reference: 35633

JUN 22 1998

Alan E. Burger, Chair
Pacific Seabird Group
Biology Department
University of Victoria
Victoria BC V8W 3N5

Dear Alan Burger:

Thank you for your letter of April 2, 1998, regarding seabird bycatch in salmon gillnet fisheries. In particular, you suggested, on behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group, that Washington State, the U.S. treaty tribes and the provincial and federal governments of Canada make seabird bycatch reduction a priority in the management of salmon gillnet fisheries in the shared waters of British Columbia and Washington State.

Your concern about protecting seabirds is certainly appreciated. Generally speaking, responsibility for marine fisheries is outside the jurisdiction of the Province, but is managed by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I have provided a copy of this correspondence exchange to the Honourable David Anderson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6 so he is aware of your comments and has an opportunity to respond.

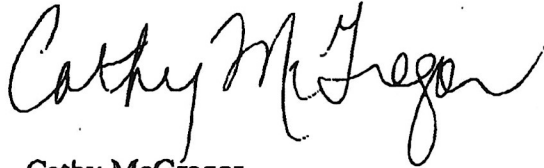
Copies of your letter have also been forwarded to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Delta, British Columbia, and to the federal Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Christine Stewart, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6.

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I appreciated receiving your views on this issue and can assure you that we will do what is within our power to preserve seabirds in British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,



Cathy McGregor
Minister

cc: The Honourable David Anderson
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

The Honourable Christine Stewart
Minister of the Environment

Canadian Wildlife Service, Delta