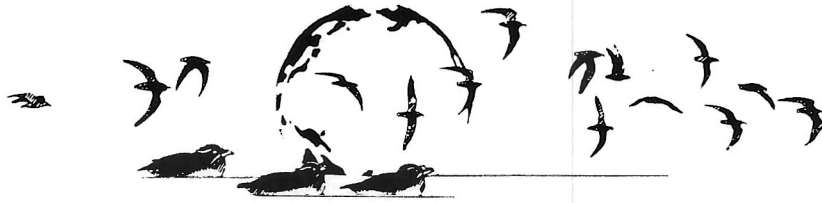

Pacific Seabird Group



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

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July 22, 1998

Secretary Bruce Babbitt
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240


Re: Seabird Bycatch in Salmon Gillnet Fisheries

Dear Mr. Secretary:

There are serious seabird bycatch problems developing in the shared waters of British Columbia and Washington State. The Pacific Seabird Group has asked 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. By letter dated April 2, 1998, we addressed these concerns to the Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (copy enclosed), the Pacific Salmon Commission, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Canadian Minister Fisheries and Oceans, the Canadian Minister of the Environment, the British Columbia Minister of Environment, the Governor of the State of Washington and the Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has not responded. These issues cannot be resolved unless FWS takes a leadership role. Please provide us with information concerning your progress in working on this issue.

Sincerely,


Craig S. Harrison
Vice Chair for Conservation