



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
911 NE 11th AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-4181

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/NWRS/RPL

FEB 7 2001

Craig S. Harrison
Pacific Seabird Group
Vice Chair for Conservation
4001 North Ninth Street #1801
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Dear Mr. Craig,

Thank you for your letter dated January 26, 2001, inquiring about the status of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's assessment of the Pacific Seabird Group's proposal that the Service acquire and manage East Sand Island as a national wildlife refuge. In our November 9, 2000, letter to you, we anticipated the Service would complete an initial assessment of East Sand Island in two to three months to determine if the project has sufficient merit to proceed with detailed planning. Unfortunately, unanticipated workloads associated with the change in administrations precluded us from completing the assessment in the time frame mentioned in the letter of November 9.

However, we are continuing to evaluate the Pacific Seabird Group's proposal and hope to have the initial assessment completed by the end of March 2001.

Sincerely,

Anne Badgley
Regional Director

cc:
ARD, Migratory Birds and State Programs
Refuge Supervisor, North Pacific Coast