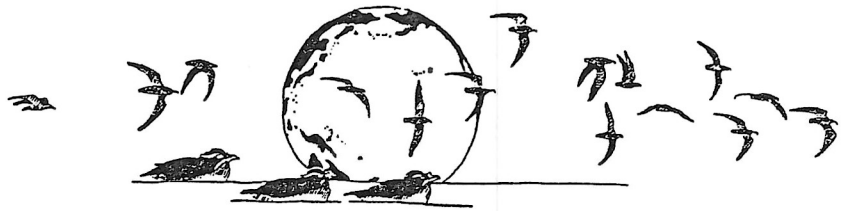


Pacific Seabird Group



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

9209 - 180th Street N.W.
Stanwood, Washington 98292
November 18, 1986

Frank Dunkle
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Main Interior Building, Rm 3256
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Dunkle:

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is a scientific organization composed of seabird researchers and conservationists dedicated to the study and conservation of Pacific seabirds and their environment. The PSG was formed in 1972 and now has over 600 members from 16 countries. An information pamphlet on the activities and scope of the PSG is enclosed.

Since the PSG was first formed, we have seen state and federal interest and involvement in marine bird research and management go from a low level in the early 1970's to major programs by the early 1980's. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) played a major role in this increased and necessary activity, and it has been the major impetus for research and conservation of Pacific seabirds. For example, the USFWS has produced seabird colony catalogs and has established wildlife refuges protecting major seabird colonies in all of the Pacific Basin states. The USFWS has supported numerous scientific research publications on seabirds by researchers from other federal, state, and institutional organizations.

The PSG Executive Council has been informed of a number of instances where personnel and funding were diverted away from seabird research and management activities. This change in focus is apparently related to budget cuts and the need for increased attention to declining gamebird populations. While there are numerous agencies and organizations that continue to conduct marine bird research and management, the USFWS is the logical (and mandated) principal agency concerned with developing long-term conservation, management and research programs relating to

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seabirds.

The PSG is concerned that seabird research and management are being de-emphasized just at a time when real and potential impacts on seabirds and their marine environment are increasing. We would like to know if USFWS has rearranged its priorities regarding seabirds. If so, is this a short-term change or one that reflects the agency's future commitment to seabirds and other nongame species?

PSG is initiating an annual survey of federal and state supported seabird research. In addition to answering our questions regarding changes in priorities and long-term commitment to nongame management, please send us a list of all research projects currently supported and/or conducted by the USFWS in Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, and Western Mexico. Please indicate the personnel and funding dedicated to each project.

We look forward to hearing from you. The continued support of seabird research and management is a matter of critical importance to the management of all marine resources.

Sincerely,

THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP



Lora L. Leschner
Chair

cc The Honorable Walter Jones