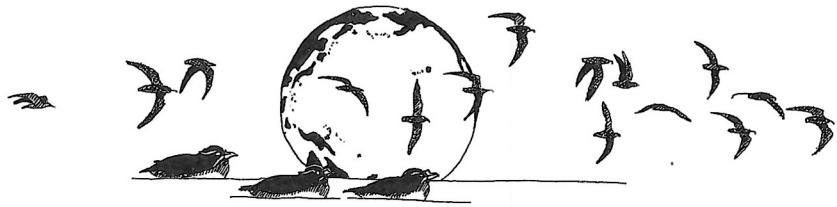


Pacific Seabird Group



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

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

Mr. John L. Spinks, Jr.
Chief, Office of Endangered Species
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Spinks:

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is an organization of professional biologists involved in seabird research and conservation. A number of our members are involved in research on the brown pelican. I have enclosed a pamphlet describing the PSG for your information.

We have studied the recent data on the California brown pelican and we are familiar with the recovery plan's objectives and step-down procedures. And, we agree with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) recent action to delist the Florida brown pelican. Based on current information on the California brown pelican, we think its improved population status in California warrants some kind of positive action by the USFWS, as well.

We think that the California brown pelicans are ready for down-listing to "threatened" status, and we suggest that USFWS initiate the process to bring this about. Since very little has been done to effect or improve brown pelican (and other seabird) conservation south of the border through improved cooperation with Mexico, we recommend this intermediate step at this time. Fortunately, the Mexicans have initiated a plan to protect important seabird colonies in the Gulf of California. Currently, however, the pelican breeding colony at Isla Coronado Norte off San Diego has declined drastically due to human disturbance. A small amount of coordination between the USFWS and the Mexican government could go a long way toward the

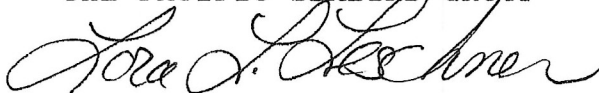
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eventual delisting of this species. In the meantime, it seems like a needed, positive step to reclassify the California brown pelican to "threatened" status, yet still recognizing the vulnerability of brown pelicans to the south.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further clarification or assistance.

Sincerely,

THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lora L. Leschner".

Lora L. Leschner
Chair

cc: Executive Council
USFWS, Endangered Species Office, Portland
USFWS, Endangered Species Office, Sacramento
California Department of Fish and Game, Nongame Office