

# Pacific Seabird Group



DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT  
Box 321, Bolinas, California 94924

January 20, 1986

The Honorable Walter Jones  
Chairman, Committee on Merchant  
Marine and Fisheries  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Jones:

I am writing as the Chair of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG). I have enclosed a copy of a letter from you to the past Chair, Dr. Daniel W. Anderson. I would like to know what actions the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment has taken regarding funding for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980. Our membership is very interested in nongame wildlife and I would like to inform them of any progress that has been made regarding funding for nongame research and conservation.

I am concerned that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be deemphasizing nongame research despite the concern of the public. I have received a number of reports that USFWS will reduce their funding of nongame research. This includes cancelling many on-going research projects and the exclusion of new projects from the budget. I have also heard that USFWS refuges are receiving little or no funds for nongame species.

Nongame wildlife species and their habitats require continuing study and protection, and they remain a continuing federal responsibility. This includes marine birds and offshore or coastal habitats. On purely economic grounds, these areas of wildlife conservation traditionally seem to end up being low priority items.

The members of the Pacific Seabird Group believe that there should be added funding for nongame research and conservation work. Any reductions in funding for the existing nongame research is contrary to the philosophy expressed in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 (PL 96-366).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lora L. Leschner". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Lora" being particularly prominent.

Lora L. Leschner  
Chairperson

cc: PSG Executive Council