

# Pacific Seabird Group



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

c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Fish and Wildlife Research  
Center, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Mr. Robert Fletcher  
Assistant Director  
California Department of Fish and Game  
1416 9th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

22 December 1987

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

The Pacific Seabird Group wrote a letter to you last December, urging the California Department of Fish and Game to take strong action to halt gill net mortality of murres in central California. We are pleased to acknowledge the Department and other participants in their recent efforts to resolve this problem. The regulations contained in the new legislative bill SB 40 should effectively minimize the high mortality of murres and other seabirds. We recognize that arriving at this solution took a great deal of time, energy, and cooperation by many.

The Pacific Seabird Group is dedicated to research and conservation of marine birds of the Pacific Ocean and around the world. We understand that the Common Murre breeding population in central California declined 57% between 1982 and 1986. Recovery will take many years to accomplish. Halting the extensive murre mortality caused by the gill net fisheries is an important step towards eventual recovery. The Pacific Seabird Group commends the successful resolution of a serious seabird management issue. We further support the ongoing investigation of alternative fishing gear that will not adversely affect marine birds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Hatch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S".

Scott A. Hatch  
Chair