

Pacific Seabird Group



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

October 12, 1991

Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Re: Petition to List Harcourt's Storm-Petrel as Endangered

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is an international organization that was founded in 1972 to promote knowledge, study, and conservation of Pacific seabirds. Its members are drawn from the entire Pacific basin, including Canada, Mexico, Japan, the the entire U.S.S.R., China, Australia, and New Zealand. Among its members are biologists who have research interests in Pacific seabirds, state and federal officials who manage seabird refuges, and many individuals who are interested in marine conservation.

In late 1989, PSG filed comments with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) with respect to a 90-day finding to amend the list of endangered and threatened wildlife to include the band-rumped (Harcourt's) storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) in Hawaii. FWS' 90 day finding was published in 54 Federal Register 38880-81 (September 21, 1989). Subsequent to the filing of PSG's comments, PSG received a copy of the enclosed article "The status of the Harcourt's storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma Castro*) in Hawaii" by Harrison, Telfer and Sincok that was published in the journal 'Elepaio in June 1990. Two of these authors are former FWS employees and the third works for the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

FWS has yet to inform us of the status of the petition to include this species on FWS' endangered species list. We would appreciate learning the status of the petition and knowing what further steps PSG might take to ensure the survival of this species.

Sincerely,

Dr. Malcolm C. Coulter
Chairman, Pacific Seabird Group
c/o Savannah River Ecology Lab
Drawer E, Aiken, S.C. 29802

Enclosure