

Pacific Seabird Group



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

April 18, 1991

Dr. Bob Brownell
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Dr. Brownell,

The Pacific Seabird Group is a scientific organization with over 400 members from many countries around the world. Our primary interest is in the scientific study and conservation of seabirds of the Pacific Ocean. One issue of great concern to us is the large-scale destruction being caused to seabirds and other wildlife from the high-seas driftnet fisheries.

At our annual meeting in January 1991 we passed a resolution regarding the banning of high-seas driftnets. Attached for your information is a copy of that resolution. We urge you to do what ever you can to see that driftnets are banned from the world's oceans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Coulter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

Pacific Seabird Group Resolution
High Seas Driftnet Fisheries
January 1991

Whereas the use of large-scale driftnets is an indiscriminate and destructive method of fishing that kills seabirds and other living marine resources of the world's oceans;

Whereas there may be severe adverse impacts of high-seas driftnets on seabirds and other marine resources, since preliminary estimates indicate that about 875,000 seabirds die annually in the North Pacific driftnets; and

Whereas jurisdiction over seabirds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act extends only 3 miles from the coast of the United States, although the nation protects marine mammals from drift nets and other threats out to 200 miles offshore;

Therefore be it resolved that the Pacific Seabird Group:

Supports banning large scale high-seas driftnets in the world's oceans, as stated in United Nations Resolution 44-225, United States Public Law 101-627, and the Wellington Convention;

Urges the United States Congress to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to extend jurisdiction of the United States over migratory birds to 200 miles off its coast.