

Pacific Seabird Group



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

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March 17, 2008

Governor Sarah Palin
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Wildlife and People at Risk: A Plan to Keep Rats out of Alaska

Dear Governor Palin:

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is an international, non-profit organization founded in 1972 to promote the knowledge, study, and conservation of Pacific seabirds. It has an international membership drawn from the entire Pacific basin, including China, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States as well as a substantial membership in Europe. Among PSG's members are scientists interested in seabird biology and conservation, managers of wildlife refuges, parks, and natural areas, and other individuals interested in marine conservation. PSG has served as a forum for government, university, and private sector biologists to discuss and resolve issues relating to seabird-fisheries interactions, island restoration, contaminants, endangered species and other topics related to seabird conservation.

This letter is to congratulate you, as the governor of the State of Alaska, for your leadership in addressing the very serious threat of introduced rats to human health, the state's economy, and to native ecosystems. Alaska is internationally important to marine birds and other resources. The cooperative network that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has developed with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other agencies, and communities is making a big difference. Your forward-looking plan, "Wildlife and People at Risk: A Plan to Keep Rats out of Alaska" is a model for others to emulate.

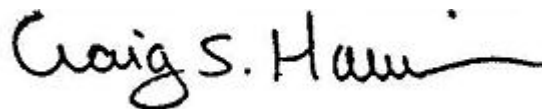
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The regulations recently adopted by the Alaska Board of Game that are designed to protect Alaska's people and wildlife by preventing the spread of rats into the rat-free parts of Alaska and controlling rats where they are already established are exemplary. The historic introduction of rats on some Alaskan islands has resulted in serious damage to native biodiversity. The required control of rats at ports and on ships will reduce the likelihood of future rat introductions to communities that are currently rat-free and to pristine islands that provide safe breeding sites for marine birds, marine mammals, and other unique Alaska flora and fauna.

We sincerely thank you for your leadership in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig S. Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Craig S. Harrison
Vice Chair for Conservation

cc: Commissioner Denby Lloyd, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Chair Cliff Judkins, Alaska Board of Game