

Pribilof Islands Collaborative
Executive Summary
Fur Seal Meeting

JANUARY 28 - 30, 2005

UAA COMMONS • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

*Materials for the Fur Seal Meeting and this Executive Summary
created by Resource Solutions, University of Alaska Anchorage*

Thank you

to the following organizations for providing funding support

Alaska Conservation Foundation
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
Marine Conservation Alliance
National Science Foundation
NOAA Fisheries—Protected Resources Division
St. Paul Tribal Government
The Nature Conservancy
World Wildlife Fund

*A special thank you to the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the National Marine
Fisheries Service*

Pribilof Islands Collaborative: Background

On January 28-30, 2005, the third *formal stakeholder meeting* of the Pribilof Islands Collaborative was held. For over eighteen months previous to this, a series of discussions among the diverse stakeholders were held to determine if the sustainability of the ecosystem and related economic issues of the Pribilof Islands' marine resources and the various communities and industries that depend on them were significant enough to warrant stakeholders' time and deliberate efforts to build agreement. In April 2004 the first formal meeting of the Pribilof Islands Collaborative (PIC) was held. These stakeholders anticipate working on issues of mutual interest for 18-24 months. The need to have consistent and accepted representation of the key stakeholder groups resulted in formal stakeholder representatives being designated to participate in the PIC.

Organizing meetings for the PIC were held in November 2002, September 2003, and January 2004. Those participating in these meetings were from St. Paul and St. George Islands, the fishing industry, and conservation groups, federal government agencies, and universities. Executive summaries of the previous meetings are available. Please contact Denise Woods at (907) 279-5504, or at denise.woods@wwfus.org. The summaries are also posted on www.worldwildlife.org/beringsea/erbc

Those stakeholders participating at the January 2005 meeting determined that the next meeting also needed to continue a focus on northern fur seals as well as discussions regarding the roadmap to complete the PIC's work. This next meeting is tentatively scheduled for early March in Seattle.

Purpose of the Pribilof Islands Collaborative

The purpose of the Pribilof Islands Collaborative is to promote a healthy ecosystem and a strong economy in and around the Pribilof Islands while maintaining viable commercial fisheries and subsistence harvests in the central Bering Sea.

The process – to use a representative group of stakeholders to identify areas of agreement on policies, strategies, and actions - will provide participating stakeholders with the opportunity to be proactive, rather than reactive, to a variety of marine resource concerns including fluctuations and declines in populations of northern fur seal, crab, changes in some seabird populations, and reductions in halibut availability around the Pribilof Islands.

Meeting Overview

The first day and most of the second included a series of presentations to better understand the status and history of the northern fur seal and relevant information about the fisheries in the Bering Sea. Prior to the January meeting, an initial, limited local and traditional knowledge and wisdom (LTKW) effort was undertaken by a few of the PIC stakeholders, and information gathered from that effort was integrated throughout the meeting.

During the afternoon of the second day, expert presenters and participants reviewed and revised a conceptual model. The conceptual model was used as a mechanism to capture the information that was presented, including areas where information or data gaps exist. The purpose of the conceptual model is to provide a visual tool to frame the factors influencing the state the northern fur seal population.

On the third day of the meeting, the research needs on the northern fur seal were presented, the needs were included and presented in the conceptual model, and additional discussions about research needs ensued. In addition, PIC stakeholders began identifying possible actions and steps that might be taken as means to address the northern fur seal declines.

Purpose and Objectives of the Meeting

The purpose of the January 2005 meeting was for formal stakeholders to learn more about northern fur seals and fisheries in the Bering Sea, and to begin sharing ideas about possible actions that might impede the NFS decline. Additional goals included:

- To continue discussions in a formalized, shared learning experience to enable exploration of options that may constructively address the northern fur seal declines in and around the Pribilof Islands.
- To understand the status of the northern fur seal, and to jointly identify knowledge and information gaps about northern fur seal population dynamics and factors affecting the Bering Sea population.
- To also develop among stakeholders a common understanding of:
 - the status of fisheries around the Pribilof Islands,
 - the status and important elements of the ecosystem around the Pribilofs, including climate change issues;
 - potential interactions and overlap in space, time and resources between northern fur seals and fisheries (throughout year, by fur seal age, sex and rookery, by fishery type);
 - the Conservation Plan for the Northern Fur Seal (NMFS 1993, and 2005 Draft Revision), and lessons learned from the Steller sea lion story; and
 - the timeline of key events for the northern fur seal population, fisheries, and Bering Sea oceanographic information.
- To determine, to the best of the PIC's ability at this meeting, existing data needed to identify and answer questions about the northern fur seal population, and how/who should conduct this analysis.
- To reach agreement on elements of a comprehensive and integrated northern fur seal research plan.
- To begin talking about possible conservation actions.

Brief Summary of Presentations

The following lists the expert presenters and the topics they presented during the Northern Fur Seal meeting held in January 2005. For more detailed notes or to review presentation materials, please go to www.worldwildlife.org/beringsea_erbc/ or contact Denise Woods at wwfberingsea@alaska.net.

NORTHERN FUR SEALS

Status and Life History

Presenter: Dr. Rolf Ream, National Marine Mammal Lab

LTKW Perspective: Karin Holser, St. George Island and Aquilina Lestenkof, St. Paul Island

Comparisons of Pribilof Northern Fur Seal population with other populations

Co-Presenters: Dr. Rolf Ream, NMML and

Dr. Vladimir Burkanov, NRC, Inc. providing Russian perspective

LTKW Perspective: Karin Holser, St. George Island and Aquilina Lestenkof, St. Paul Island

Northern Fur Seals: Nutritional Stress Discussion

Co-Presenters: Dr. Andrew Trites, University of British Columbia

Dr. Bob DeLong, National Marine Mammal Lab

Dr. Lowell Fritz, National Marine Mammal Lab

LTKW Perspective: Karin Holser, St. George Island and Aquilina Lestenkof, St. Paul Island

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTING FACTORS to FUR SEAL POPULATION CHANGES

Factors we have little/no control over

Environmental Effects

Co-Presenters: Nancy Kachel, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, NOAA
Dr, Gordon Kruse, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Dr. Alan Springer, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Predation: The potential role of killer whale and other predation in northern fur seal population declines.

Co-Presenters: Dr. Alan Springer, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Dr, Doug Demaster, Alaska Fisheries Science Center
LTKW Perspective: Karin Holser, St. George Island and Aquilina Lestenkof, St. Paul Island

Diseases

Presenter and LTKW Perspective: Dr. Terry Spraker, Colorado State University

Factors We Have Some/More Control Over

Fisheries in the North Pacific: Overview

-Areas of Prey Concentration, Dr. Bruce Robson, private consultant

-Temporal trends in species diversity in the region. Status and trends of key prey species in the Eastern Bering Sea, sub-arctic, and California Current (WA and OR Coasts/fur seal migration corridor), and Socio-economic considerations including value of fisheries, communities using fish resources, Dr. Libby Logerwell, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

-Herring fishery, Dr. Gordon Kruse, University of Alaska Fairbanks

-Spatial and temporal trends in commercial fisheries removals including shifts in target species, area closures, and gear. (1991 – 2004); Bycatch over time of prey species important to NFS; and Overview of current management regulations, Dr. David Ackley, National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau

-Recent (1999 - 2004) spatial and temporal trends in the pollock fishery, and Overview of current management considerations (including bycatch, sea lions and AFA-related) affecting the Pollock fishery, Dr. Karl Haflinger, SeaState, Inc.

-Spatial and temporal trends of Pollock catch and biomass in NFS foraging area,, Dr. Lowell Fritz, National Marine Mammal Laboratory

-LTKW Perspective: Karin Holser, St. George Island and Aquilina Lestenkof, St. Paul Island

Subsistence Takes

Presenter: Aquilina (Debbie) Lestenkof, Co-Director, Ecosystem Conservation Office,
Tribal Government of St. Paul

Contaminants

Presenter: Dr. Shannon Atkinson, Alaska Sea Life Center

Development, Research and Activities on and around the Islands (other than subsistence)

On-Islands 1982 – Forward

Presenter: Char Kirkwood, City of St. Paul Planner

Off-Islands - Acoustic Tracking of Northern Fur Seals in the Bering Sea

Presenter: Dr. Steve Insley, University of California-Santa Cruz

Entanglement and Marine Debris: History & current status of northern fur seal take resulting from entanglement in marine debris, including debris and gear type

Co-Presenters: Dr. Chuck Fowler, National Marine Mammal Laboratory and
Mike Williams, LGL Alaska

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals

Presenter: Dr. Doug Demaster, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Fur Seal Conservation Plan Overview

Presenter: Kaja Brix, National Marine Fisheries Service - Protected Resources

Endangered Species Act, including Steller sea lion history (biological and political lessons learned)

Presenter: Dr. Doug Demaster, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

POTENTIAL RESPONSES TO ADDRESS DECLINE

Research Needs

Co-Presenters: Dr. Tom Gelatt, National Marine Mammal Lab

Mr. Don Calkins, Alaska Sea Life Center

Dr. Andrew Trites, University of British Columbia

Phil Zavadil, for Ecosystem Conservation Office, Tribal Government of St. Paul and
Pribilof Islands Stewardship Program, St. George Tribal Council

PRIBILOF ISLANDS COLLABORATIVE NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Review, refine and determine how the PIC will use the Conceptual Model and Possible Management Actions, which were both created during the January 2005 PIC meeting. (Send documents to PIC Stakeholders).
- ✓ Steering Committee will coordinate with stakeholders and determine next meeting date – in April or sooner
 - Primary agenda items:
 - Fur Seal issues – agreement building (may take more than one meeting)
 - Identify those items that are easy to get agreement on and begin taking action soon, e.g. education
 - Develop Roadmap
- ✓ Development of research needs
- ✓ Continue fundraising efforts
- ✓ Explore/create GIS layering
- ✓ Data Work Group – Need input from PIC Stakeholders to reconstitute this group into what is now needed
- ✓ LTKW Effort – Develop next steps

List of Participants

Designated Stakeholder Representatives

St. Paul Island

TDX ▪ Ron Philemonoff • Chief Executive Officer, TDX Corporation
4300 B Street, Suite 220, Anchorage AK 99503 907.278-2312 ron@tdx.alaska.com
Perfinia Pletnikoff (alternate)

City of St. Paul ▪ John R. Mercurief • City Manager, City of St. Paul
P.O. Box 901, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-3110 stpaulak@hotmail.com

St. Paul Tribal Government ▪ Richard Zacharof • President, Tribal Government of St. Paul
P.O. Box 86, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2211 Fax 907.546-2407 rzacharof@tdxak.com

At-Large ▪ Aquilina Lestenkof • Co-Director, Ecosystem Office, Tribal Government of St. Paul
P.O. Box 86, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2641 Fax 907.546-2655 aquilina@tdxak.com

At-Large ▪ Phil Zavadil • Co-Director, Tribal Government of St. Paul, Ecosystem Conservation Office
P.O. Box 86, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2641 Fax 907.546-2655 pazavadil@tdxak.com

St. George Island

Tanaq Corporation ▪ Andy Kashevarof • Vice President of Operations, St. George Tanaq Corporation
P.O. Box 951, St. George Island AK 99591 907.249-5110 andy6320@hotmail.com

St. George Tribal Government ▪ Max Malavansky, Jr. • St. George Traditional Council
907.859-2205 max_malavan@hotmail.com

At-Large ▪ Karin Holser • Coordinator, Pribilof Islands Stewardship Program
P.O. Box 306, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-3190 Fax 907.546-2210 kholsel1@yahoo.com

At Large ▪ Lawrence Prokopiof • St. George Fisherman's Association
P.O. Box 947, St. George Island, AK 99591 907-859-2450 lpro_62@yahoo.com

Unable to Attend: City of St. George: Max Malavansky, Sr.

CDQ Groups

APICDA ▪ Larry Cotter • Chief Executive Officer, APICDA
234 Gold Street, Juneau AK 99801 907.586-0161 Fax 907.586-0165 lcotter@apicda.com

CBSFA ▪ Phillip Lestenkof • President, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
P.O. Box 127, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2597 Fax 907-546-2450 plestenkof@cbsfa.com

Industry

Groundfish Forum ▪ Lori Swanson • Groundfish Forum
4241 21st Avenue West Seattle, WA 98199 206-909-5959 loriswanson@seanet.com

North Pacific Long Line Association ▪ Thorn Smith • North Pacific Longline Association
4209 21st Avenue West, Seattle WA 206.282-4639 thorndog@npla.net

At Sea Processors Association ▪ Paul MacGregor • General Council, At-Sea Processors
999 3rd Avenue, Suite 4200, Seattle WA 98104 206.285.5139 Fax 206.285.1841 pmacgregor@mundtmac.com

On-Shore Processors ▪ Kris Norosz, Icicle Seafoods ▪ P.O. Box 1147, Petersburg, AK 99833
907-772-4294 krisn@icicleseafoods.com

Crab ▪ Arni Thomson ▪ Alaska Crab Coalition 3901 Leary Way, NW #6, Seattle, WA 98107 206.544.7560

Conservation

The Nature Conservancy ▪ Randy Hagenstein • Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy
715 L Street, Suite 100, Anchorage AK 99501 907.276-3133 Fax 907.276-2584 rhagenstein@tnc.org

World Wildlife Fund ▪ Margaret Williams • Director, World Wildlife Fund, Bering Sea Ecoregion Program
1250 24th Street NW, Washington DC 20037 202.778-9573 Fax 202.822-3451 margaret.williams@wwfus.org
Alaska Office: 406 G Street, Suite 303, Anchorage AK 99501 907.279-5504 Fax 907.279-5509

Alaska Marine Conservation Council ▪ Claire LeClair • Board Member
P.O. Box 101145, Anchorage AK 99517 907.277-5357 northsister@acsalaska.net

The Ocean Conservancy ▪ Whit Sheard • Alaska Fish Conservation Program Manager
425 G St. Suite 400, Anchorage AK 99501 907.258.9922 Fax 907.258.9933 chinook@acsalaska.net

Oceana ▪ Susan Murray ▪ Associate Director Pacific Region
175 South Franklin St., Suite 418, Juneau, AK 99801 907.586.4050 smurray@oceana.org

Other Participants

David Ackley National Marine Fisheries Service 907-586-7010 P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802
david.ackley@noaa.gov

Russel Andrews UAF/Alaska SeaLife Center 907-224-6344 P.O. Box 1329, Seward, AK 99664
russ_andrews@alaskasealife.org

Shannon Atkinson UAF/Alaska SeaLife Center 907-224-6346 P.O. Box 1329, Seward, AK 99664
shannon_atkinson@alaskasealife.org

Alison Banks UAF banks@sfoo.uaf.edu

John Bengtson National Marine Mammal Lab 206-526-4016 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E. Seattle, WA 98115
john.bengtson@noaa.gov

Dave Benson Pollock Conservation Coop 206-297-6442 23701 Jefferson Point Rd., N.E. Kingston, WA 98342

Kaja Brix National Marine Fisheries Service 907-588-7235 P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, AK 99802-1668
kaja.brix@noaa.gov

Vladimir Burkanov NRC, Inc. 208-528-4298 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E. Seattle, WA 98115 vladimir.burkanov@noaa.gov

Lisa Butzner North Pacific Longline Assoc. 202-282-4639 lisa@npla.net

Don Calkins Alaska SeaLife Center 907-224-6325 305 Railway Seward, AK 99664 don_calkins@alaskasealife.org

Dave Cline Consultant 907-345-2939 11930 Circle Drive Anchorage, AK 99507 clinerom@alaska.net

Randall Davis Texas A&M University 409-740-4712 5007 Avenue M Galveston, TX 77843 davisr@tamua.edu

Bob Delong National Marine Mammal Lab; 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E. Seattle, WA 98115 robert.delong@noaa.gov

Doug Demaster National Marine Fisheries Service; 206-526-4000 - 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E. Seattle, WA 98115;
douglas.demaster@noaa.gov

Karen Pletnikoff Aleutian Pribilof Islands Assoc. 907-222-4286 201 E. 3rd Avenue Anchorage, AK 99501
karenp@apiai.org

Rolf Ream National Marine Mammal Lab 206-526-4328 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E. Seattle, WA 98115 rolf.ream@noaa.gov

Glen Reed Pacific Seafoods Processors Assn 206-281-1667 1900 W. Emerson Place, Suite 205 Seattle, WA 98119
info@pspafish.net

Ed Richardson At Sea Processors Association 206-285-5139 4039 21st Avenue West, Suite 400 Seattle, WA 98199
erichardson@atsea.org

Bruce Robson World Wildlife Fund Consultant brucerobson@comcast.net

Olga Romanenko 907-345-2939 11930 Circle Drive Anchorage, AK 99507 oromanenko@alaska.net

Demian Schane Earthjustice 907-586-2751 325 4th Street Juneau, AK 99810 dschane@earthjustice.org

Astrid Scholz Ecotrust 503-465-0758 721 N.W. 9th Avenue Portland, OR 97206 astrid@ecotrust.org

Dana Seagars 907-271-2871 6200 E. 112th Avenue Anchorage, AK 99516 wallyrus@alaska.net

Janis Searles Oceana 503-234-4552 4117 S.E. Division #309 Portland, OR 97202 jsearles@oceana.org

Greg Siekaniec USFWS/AMNWR 907-235-6546 95 Sterling Highway Homer, AK 99603 gregory_siekaniec@fws.gov

Beth Sinclair National Marine Fisheries Service 509-997-0274 414 Twisp-Carlton Road Seattle, WA 98814
beth.sinclair@noaa.gov

Art Sowls USFWS/AMNWR 907-235-6546 95 Sterling Highway, Suite 1 Homer, AK 99603 art_sowls@fws.gov

Terry Spraker Colorado State University 470-297-4155 2814 West Lake Fort Collins, CO 80521 tspraker@colostate.edu

Alan Springer University of Alaska Fairbanks 907-474-6213 IMS/ University of Alaska Fairbanks Fairbanks, AK 99707
ams@ims.uaf.edu

Kent Sundseth USFWS/AMNWR 907-235-6546 95 Sterling Highway, Suite 1 Homer, AK 99603 kent_sundseth@fws.gov

Ward Testa National Marine Mammal Lab 907-786-1350 3211 Providence Dr. Anchorage, AK 99508 ward.testa@noaa.gov

Andrew Trites University of British Columbia 604-822-8181 6248 Biological Sciences Rd Vancouver, B.C. V6T124
trites@zoology.ubc.ca

Mike Williams LGL Alaska 907-562-3339 1101 E 76th, Suite B Anchorage, AK 99518 mwilliams@lgl.com

Robert Williams Coastal Villages Region Fund 907-278-5151 711 H. Street, #200 Anchorage, AK 99501
robert_w@coastalvillages.org

Bill Wilson North Pacific Fishery Management Council 907-271-2809 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306 Anchorage, AK 99501
bill.wilson@noaa.gov

Denise Woods World Wildlife Fund 907-279-5504 406 G. Street, Suite 303 Anchorage, AK 99501 denise.woods@wwfus.org

Mike Zacharof Tribal Government of St. Paul 907-546-3200

Facilitators

Margaret (Meg) King • Program Manager, Resource Solutions, Environment and Natural Resources Institute,
University of Alaska Anchorage
707 A St., Suite 101, Anchorage AK 99501 907.257-2716 Fax 907.257-2754 anmjk@uaa.alaska.edu

Brock B. Bernstein, Ph.D.
308 Raymond St.; Ojai, CA 93023 805-646-8369 Fax 805-646-3849 brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net

Executive summaries of previous meetings are available. Please contact Denise Woods at (907) 279-5504, or at wwfberingsea@alaska.net. The summaries are also posted on www.worldwildlife.org/beringsea_erbc/