

## **Pribilof Islands Collaborative - Steering Committee**

Administered by: World Wildlife Fund, 406 G Street, Suite 303, Anchorage, AK 99501  
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October 1, 2003

Mr. Chris Oliver  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Update on the Pribilof Collaborative

Dear Mr. Oliver,

On September 22 – 23 over 60 people met in Anchorage for a preliminary design meeting for the Pribilof Collaborative. Participants talked about their concerns and the future of the Pribilof Islands' economy and ecosystem and how they might be able to work together to address issues of common concern. These individuals were from St. Paul and St. George Islands, fishing industry and conservation groups, and federal government agencies. All individuals spoke on behalf of themselves, not their organizations.

The purpose of the preliminary design meeting was for representatives of the various stakeholder groups to learn more about other's concerns and about how collaborative processes can be structured, and to create a draft framework and roadmap for the Pribilof Collaborative. Participants discussed the scope of issues the Collaborative might address, the potential structure of the process, potential information needs, and how the Collaborative might interact with both the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the NMFS' EIS process for the northern fur seal harvest plan.

Participants also drafted a proposed problem statement, mission statement, and timeline for the process. The proposed timeline is structured around both the NMFS fur seal EIS timeline and the NPFMC meeting schedule. Participants also proposed that stakeholders involved in the Pribilof Collaborative interact with the NPFMC by designating a committee that would actively participate in the Council process and serve as a liaison between the two entities.

At the conclusion of the September 22-23 meeting participants agreed to share the proposed structure developed at the preliminary design meeting with their organizations and communities over the next month. Participants will report back to the steering committee by October 31st with as much of a commitment as possible to participating in the collaborative process. Assuming an adequate level of commitment, participants agreed to meet next in January 2004 to learn more about Pribilof Islands history, current

scientific knowledge of fish, bird and marine mammal populations and interactions, and traditional ecological knowledge of the Pribilof ecosystem.

If you, your staff or any Council member have questions or would like more information regarding the preliminary design meeting or the Pribilof Collaborative, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the steering committee.

Sincerely,

Evie Witten  
On behalf of the Pribilof Collaborative Steering Committee

Pribilof Collaborative Steering Committee:

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