


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver   
Executive Director

DATE: November 30, 2004

SUBJECT: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Report

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Receive report and take action as necessary.

**BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has determined that the Kittlitz's murrelet, a small seabird that is found only in Alaska and portions of the Russian Far East, has declined significantly in recent years, and is being considered a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. A large component of the Alaskan population breeds in Prince William Sound, the Kenai Peninsula coast, and Kachemak Bay. Kittlitz's murrelets are known to associate closely with tidewater glaciers and nest on scree slopes and similar sites on the ground. Their winter distribution and habitat is unknown.

While U.S. groundfish fisheries are not known to adversely interact with this species of seabird, an ESA listing could possibly require consideration of its status in future fishery management actions. New research on Kittlitz's murrelets has given some insights into its habits and habitat, and representatives from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will present a brief report on this work.