



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

May 29, 2026

Sara Boario, Regional Director  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: Incidental Take of Endangered and Threatened Seabirds in the Groundfish Fisheries and the Pacific Halibut Fishery off Alaska in 2025

Dear Regional Director Boario:

This letter provides information on the incidental take of endangered and threatened seabirds in the groundfish fisheries and the Pacific halibut fishery off Alaska in 2025 in accordance with the applicable biological opinions, which are described below.

In 2016, we completed a summary report describing seabird interactions and mitigation measures in Alaska from 2007 through 2015<sup>a</sup> for both the groundfish fisheries and the Pacific halibut fishery. We supplemented this summary report with subsequent detailed annual reports through 2021.<sup>b</sup> Now, information on seabird interactions can be found in the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Status Reports<sup>c</sup> for the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, and Aleutian Islands.

### Groundfish Fisheries off Alaska

In March 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) determined that the Alaska groundfish fisheries are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of short-tailed albatross, Steller's eider, or spectacled eider. Further, the Service determined that the Alaska groundfish fisheries are not likely to adversely modify the critical habitat of the Steller's or spectacled eider (*Consultation # 07CAAN00-2020-F-0349*).

That biological opinion included reasonable and prudent measures (RPMs) for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to undertake to minimize take of short-tailed albatross, Steller's eider, and spectacled eider in the groundfish fisheries. RPM 2 requires NMFS to monitor the groundfish fisheries for interactions with short-tailed albatross, Steller's eider, and spectacled eider and report all observed, reported, and estimated takes of these birds to the Service, and report on the efficacy of avoidance and minimization measures.

<sup>a</sup> <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/12695>

<sup>b</sup> <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/16993>, <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/19471>, <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/20231>, <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/25244>, <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/32076>, and <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/46629>

<sup>c</sup> <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/ecosystems/ecosystem-status-reports-gulf-alaska-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands#2024-alaska-marine-ecosystem-status-reports>



This letter serves to satisfy our 2025 reporting requirements pursuant to section 7(o)(2) of the Endangered Species Act resulting from that biological opinion.

There were no takes of short-tailed albatross, Steller's eider, or spectacled eider in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska in 2025. Existing seabird avoidance and mitigation measures remain in place; this includes the use of streamer lines as prescribed at 50 CFR 679.24(e). Given the lack of takes, these avoidance and minimization measures continue to be effective.

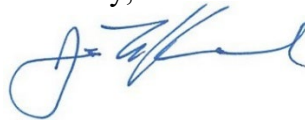
### **Pacific Halibut Fishery in U.S. Convention Waters off Alaska**

In February 2018, the Service determined that the Pacific halibut fishery in U.S. Convention waters off Alaska was not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of short-tailed albatross (*Consultation # 07CAAN00-2017-F-0358*). That biological opinion included reporting requirements for NMFS to undertake regarding the short-tailed albatross in the Pacific halibut fisheries. Reporting Requirement 2 requires NMFS to provide to the Service, on an annual basis, bycatch estimates of the number of short-tailed albatross taken in the commercial hook-and-line halibut fisheries. This letter serves to satisfy our 2025 reporting requirements pursuant to section 7(o)(2) of the Endangered Species Act resulting from that biological opinion.

There were no takes of short-tailed albatross in the commercial Pacific halibut fishery off Alaska in 2025. Existing seabird avoidance and mitigation measures remain in place; this includes the use of streamer lines as prescribed at 50 CFR 679.24(e). Given the lack of takes, these avoidance and minimization measures continue to be effective.

If you have any questions or concerns, please respond directly to Maggie Chan ([maggie.chan@noaa.gov](mailto:maggie.chan@noaa.gov) or 907-586-7228).

Sincerely,



Jonathan M. Kurland  
Regional Administrator