

Proposals to Classify Tufted Puffins as Endangered and to Delist Steller Sea Lions



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of Fish & Wildlife*

Status of Puffins in Washington and Reasons for Listing Recommendation

1. Minimum population estimates have greatly declined in last 4 decades:

25,000 thru early 1980s to 3,000 in 2009

- Decline follows a similar trend in CA, OR, Japan

2. Declines in colony size and distribution:

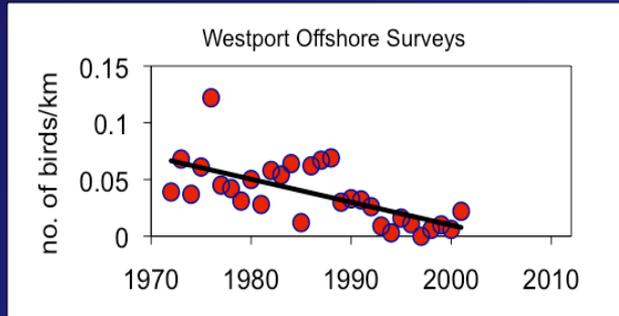
44 historical colonies to 19 in 2007-2010

9 sites once $\geq 1,000$ birds, largest now is ~ 200

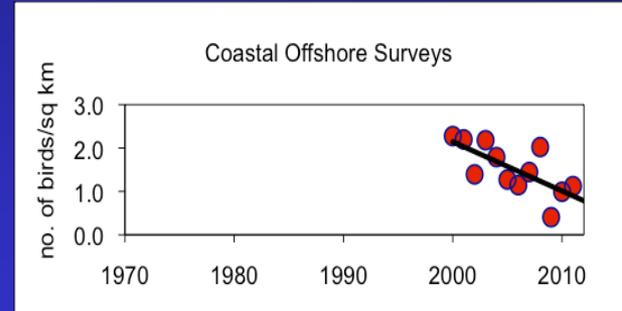
Of 19 current sites, only 3 have similar numbers as 1978-82

Only 2 of 13 sites remain in the inner waters

3. Declining Numbers during Boat-based Surveys

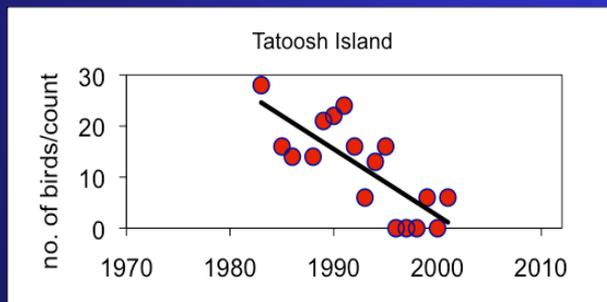


13.6% mean decline per year, 1972-2001

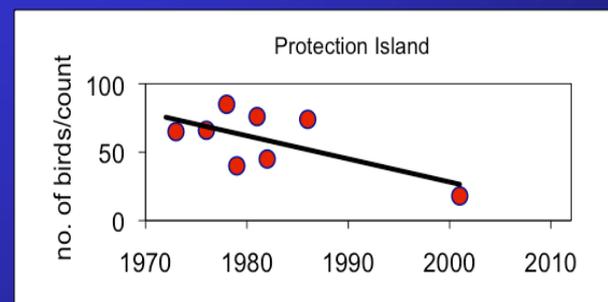


8.9% mean decline per year, 2001-2012

4. Declines in Attendance at Colonies



16.9% mean decline per year, 1983-2001



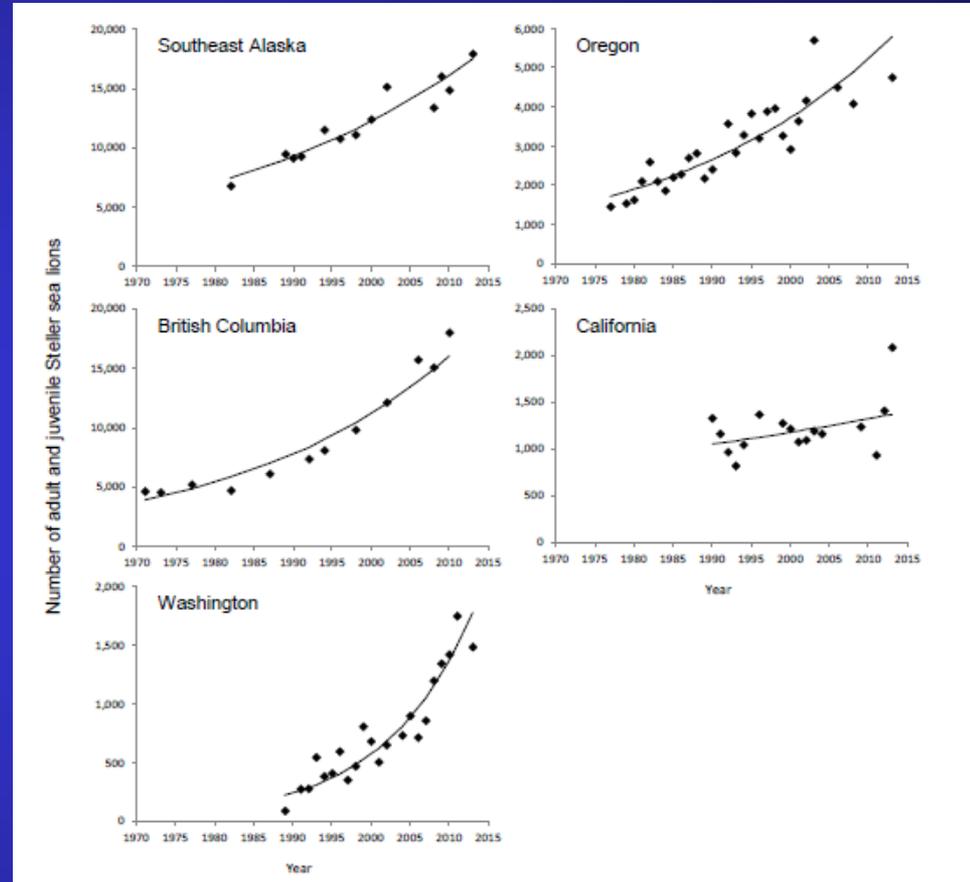
13.9% mean decline per year, 1973-2001

Recommendation

Add Tufted Puffin to the list of
Wildlife Classified as Endangered Species
WAC 232-12-014

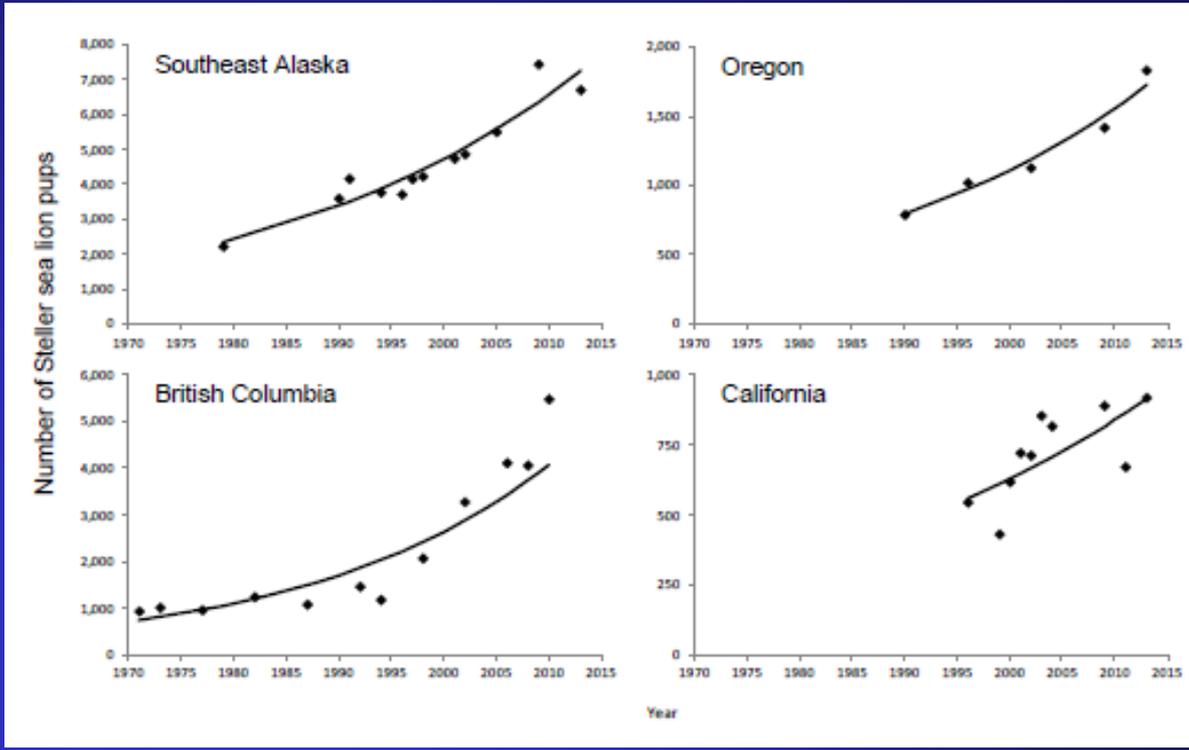
Status of Steller Sea Lions and Reasons for Delisting Recommendation

- Greatly depleted thru early 1970s
- Increase in non-pup numbers in E DPS
 - Total DPS +2.99% (sig)
 - WA +9.13% (sig)



- Summer trend counts of non-pups at 4 haulouts in WA increased from ~250-300 in early 1990s to 2,157 in 2014

- Increase in pup numbers in across E DPS+4.18% (sig)



- Total E DPS population estimate increased from ~18,300 in 1979 to ~70,200 in 2010
- WA pup numbers have increased from 1 in 1992 to 60 in 2014

Recommendation

Amend WAC 232-12-011, removing
Steller Sea Lion from the list of
Threatened species, however it will
remain as Protected Wildlife