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WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

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March 1, 1993

Anthony R. DeGrange
Marine Mammals Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4230 University Drive, Suite 310
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Mr. DeGrange:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the January 15, 1993 Draft Management Plan for the Sea Otter in Alaska. This letter supplements the comments have been prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The State of Alaska owns tidelands, shorelands, submerged lands and watercolumns in Alaska. In many cases, sea otter, their habitat, and any related human use or development are already covered by guidelines in the state land plans. These land plans are developed and adopted by state law. For the benefit of the public, the plan should acknowledge state land and water management authority and state land plans.

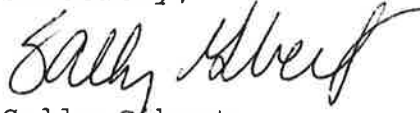
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should also use care in preparing this plan to avoid overstepping state jurisdictions or implying that it has authority to manage state land or water or to control public use on state land or water when managing sea otter. Page 13, (option 2), page 29 (line 4), and page 33 (5.6 and 5.7) suggest that the Service may be imposing on state land and water management authority.

The Department of Natural Resources, as manager of state land and waters, is willing to work with the Service to coordinate authorities and activities regarding management of the sea otter.

If you have any questions concerning state land and water management, please contact Alice Iliff, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land, at 762-2660.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment to this draft plan.

Sincerely,



Sally Gilbert
State CSU Coordinator

cc:

Carl Rosier, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Glenn Olds, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
John Sandor, Commissioner, Department of Environmental
Conservation

Frank Turpin, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

Richard Burton, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Sea Otter & Pacific Walrus Plans
March 1, 1993

Stan Leaphart, Citizens Advisory Commission, Fairbanks

Dr. Paul Rusanowski, Office of the Governor, DGC, Juneau

Tina Cunning, DF&G, Commissioner's Office, Anchorage

Terry Haynes, DF&G, Subsistence Division, Fairbanks

Priscilla Wohl, DEC, Anchorage

Alice Iliff, DNR, Division of Land, Anchorage

Sue Flensburg, BBCRSA, Dillingham