

Petition for Responsible Management of Sea Otters

Fisheries & Sea Otter Conservation Coalition

Twenty five years ago, the first sea otter recovery plan established the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) policy to protect and recover the California sea otter population without destroying affected commercial and sport fisheries. Congress enshrined this policy in P.L.99-625 in 1986. The California Dept. of Fish & Game (DFG) and the Fish & Game Commission espoused this policy in the 1987 MOU with the FWS to implement a sea otter management plan and in Commission policy adopted in 1999 (Shellfish and Sea Otter Conflicts, April, 1999).

FWS is now proposing to abandon a 20 year management program of balancing sea otter recovery and fishing protections. Its new plan is a "no management plan" which would allow sea otters to go wherever they want. The FWS' unreasonable action will lead to inevitable conflicts between sea otters and legal fishing activities and sea otters and other protected species.

While the FWS focuses on inconsequential benefits to sea otters, the real threat to sea otters is not being addressed. It is widely recognized that the most serious killer of sea otters is pollutant discharges and poor water quality. If the hundreds of sea otter deaths from pollution were prevented, sea otters would reach recovery goals in a few short years.

We expect the FWS and the DFG to not abandon their responsibility for managing fish and wildlife consistent with long standing policy and law. Implementing the misguided proposal of FWS will needlessly lead to the destruction of California commercial and recreational fishing, loss of thousands of jobs, conflict with the conservation needs of other marine species, and continued sea otter mortality due to pollution.

Name	Address	Email or Phone
1. (Print)		
(Signature)		Fisherman <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliated Business <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/>
2. (Print)		
(Signature)		Fisherman <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliated Business <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/>
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Mail completed petition to:

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Date _____
www.fsocc.org