

Draft

Northern Fur Seal Conservation Plan



Overview

Kaja Brix

Protected Resources Division

National Marine Fisheries Service

Alaska Region

MMPA



- **1988 Depleted designation for Northern Fur Seals**
- **1988 MMPA amendments require Conservation Plan**
- **1993 NFS Conservation Plan**
- **Need for update to 1993 Plan**

Conservation Plan

Goal

Restore the species or stock to its Optimum Sustainable Population

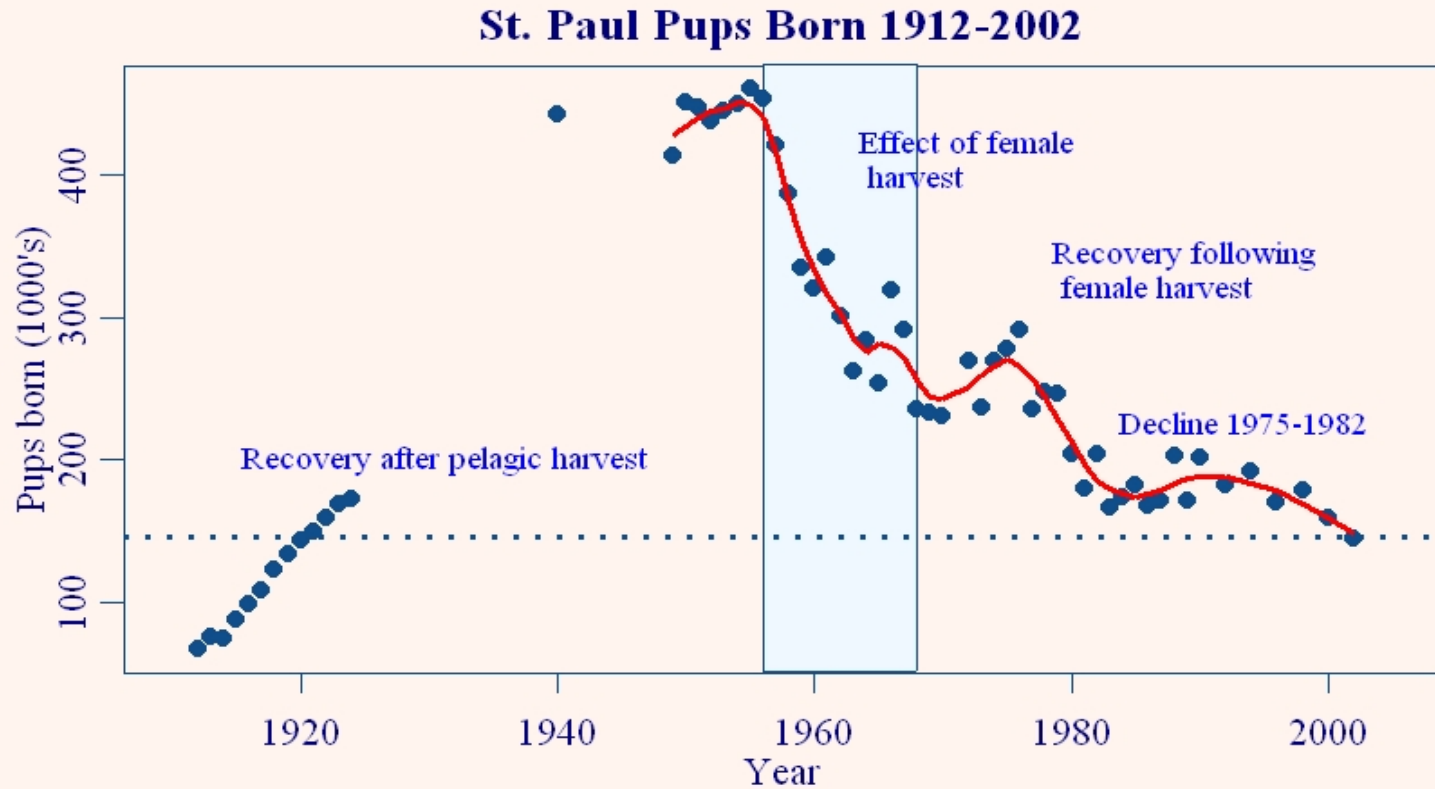
Address

- **Status of population**
- **Causes of the decline**
- **Threats to the population**
- **Critical information gaps**
- **Research needs**
- **Management actions**
- **Implementation schedule**

Objectives of NFS Conservation Plan

- **Objective 1**
 - Identify and eliminate or mitigate the cause or causes of human-related mortality
- **Objective 2**
 - Assess and avoid or mitigate the possible adverse effects of human-related developmental activities on or near the Pribilof Islands and other habitat
- **Objective 3**
 - Continue and expand research and management programs
- **Objective 4**
 - Assess implementation of the plan

NFS Population



Causes of the decline/ Threats to the population

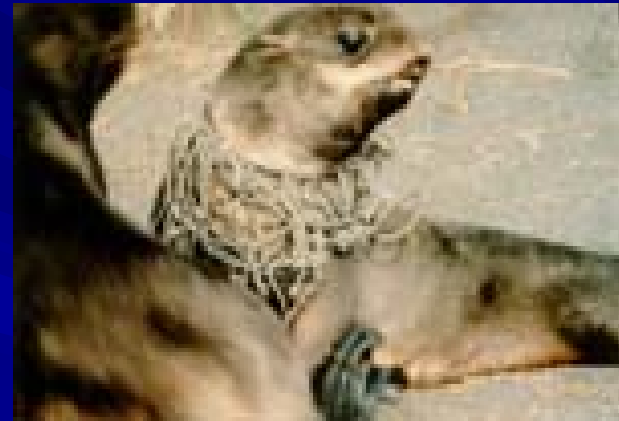


- **Commercial harvest**
- Parasitism and disease
- Nutritional stress
- Predation
- Habitat capacity and environmental change
- Emigration

Causes of the decline/ Threats to the population cont'd

Human-induced factors include

- Enganglement
- Subsistence harvest
- Commercial fishing
- Pollution
- Vessel traffic, tourism
- Coastal development
- Noise
- Oil and gas activities



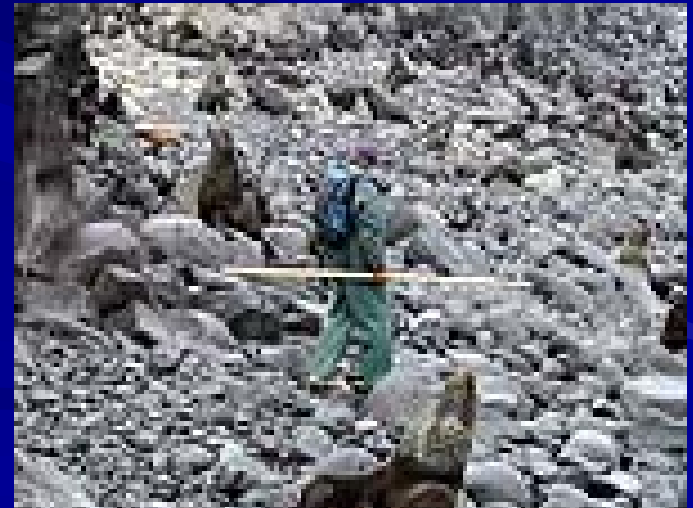


Research Needs

- **Population biology including continuation of pup and bull counts, vital rates, spatial comparative studies, foraging ecology etc.**
- **Fisheries interactions**
- **Disease assessment/ Contaminant analyses**
- **Predation studies**
- **Ecosystem changes**
- **Marine debris and pollutants**
- **Harvest practices evaluation**
- **Habitat assessment**

Management Actions

- Disentanglement program
- Observer programs
- Mitigation of human presence
 - Aircraft, vessel, motorized vehicles, tourism, pedestrian traffic
- Interagency consultations
- Co-management
- Education and outreach



Management Actions

- Island Sentinel program
- International partnerships
- Fisheries management
- Enforce existing regulations
- Harvest management
- Marine Debris, pollution mitigation
- Outreach and education
- Disease vector management
 - Dogs, rats etc.



Implementation Schedule



- **Plan Task**
 - **Task number**
 - **Priority (1-low; 2-med.; 3-high)**
 - **Task Duration (years, periodically)**
 - **Cost**

Status of Draft NFS Conservation Plan

- **Presentation to the PIC**
- **Finalize discussions with the Tribal governments of St. Paul and St. George**
- **Formal public review and comment**
- **Final Conservation Plan**

Thank you.

