

Tahoma Audubon Society
Krystal Kyer, Conservation Coordinator
September 8, 2008

Recommendations to the Shellfish Aquaculture Regulatory Committee on bird species to protect when permitting/conducting intertidal shellfish aquaculture in the Puget Sound.

- A. All bird species that are on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) List that can be found in or near intertidal areas for overwintering, breeding, feeding or nesting.
- B. All federally listed bird species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that can be found in or near intertidal areas for overwintering, breeding, feeding or nesting.
- C. All wintering marine birds in the Puget Sound, including:
 - 1. grebes
 - 2. loons
 - 3. scoters
 - 4. Common murre
 - 5. Brant geese, including Western High Arctic Brant
- D. Protect common birds in decline that utilize Washington's marine, intertidal, and nearshore habitats. National Audubon Society's Birds in Decline 2007 report includes the following relevant species:
 - 1. Northern Pintail
 - 2. Greater Scaup
 - 3. Common Tern
 - 4. Snow Bunting.
- E. Protect Birds at Risk in the Puget Sound trough. From Audubon Washington's WatchList 2007, these include:
 - 1. Brant
 - 2. Trumpeter Swan
 - 3. Black Turnstone
 - 4. Surfbird
 - 5. Short-billed Dowitcher
 - 6. Western Sandpiper
 - 7. Marbled Murrelet

The federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), the state Species of Concern list (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife), and the Audubon Washington Vulnerable Birds list are compiled in a table available on Seattle Audubon's website, at:

http://www.birdweb.org/birdweb/special_concern.aspx.