



# Status Reviews/Reports and listing recommendations

# Guided by WAC 220-610-110

Recommendations for

Brown Pelican, White Pelican, Snowy Plover, Cascade Red Fox

## Listing based on the biological status of the species

**Sensitive:** vulnerable or declining and is likely to become endangered or threatened in a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats

**Threatened:** ...likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats

**Endangered:** ...seriously threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state



# Brown Pelicans in Washington



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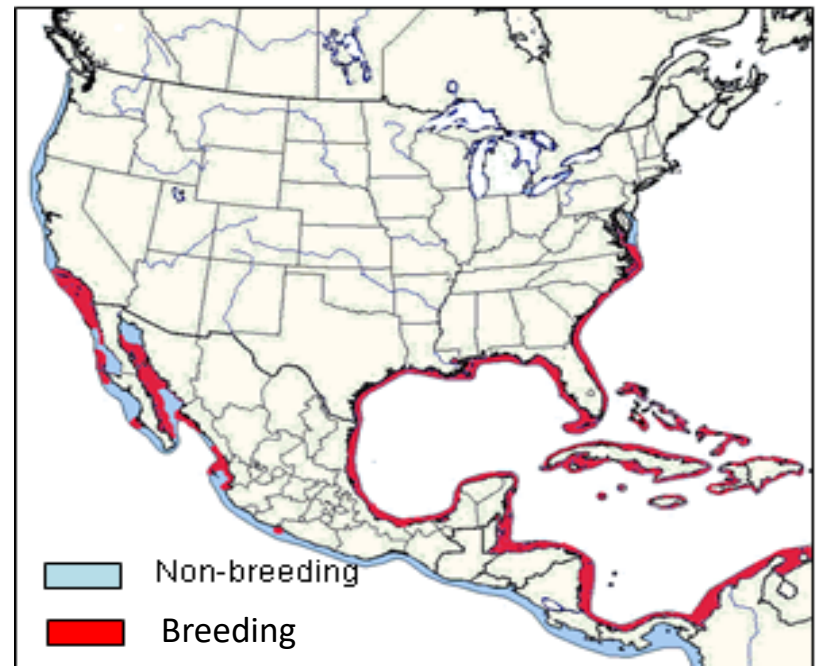


Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

# Natural History

Predominantly marine  
Long-lived (>43 years)  
Colonial nesting  
Eat forage fishes





## *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*

- Nests in Channel Islands, coast of Baja, islands in Gulf of California
- After breeding, disperse north along coast
- Present seasonally in Washington



# 19<sup>th</sup> & 20th Century Decline



- Feather fashion trade
- DDT: egg-shell thinning- reproductive failure
- 1970: listed as **Endangered** under the ESA
- 1972: DDT banned
- 1980 **Endangered** in Washington







- Late 1970s: began expanding N to WA
- 1985: annual influx of 1,000s began
- Today, substantial numbers April-November
- 2009: FWS de-listed
- 2016: WA de-listed



# Brown Pelicans

## Seasonal roosts in:

- Columbia estuary
- Willapa Bay
- Grays Harbor
- rocky islands, N to Cape Flattery

## Examples:

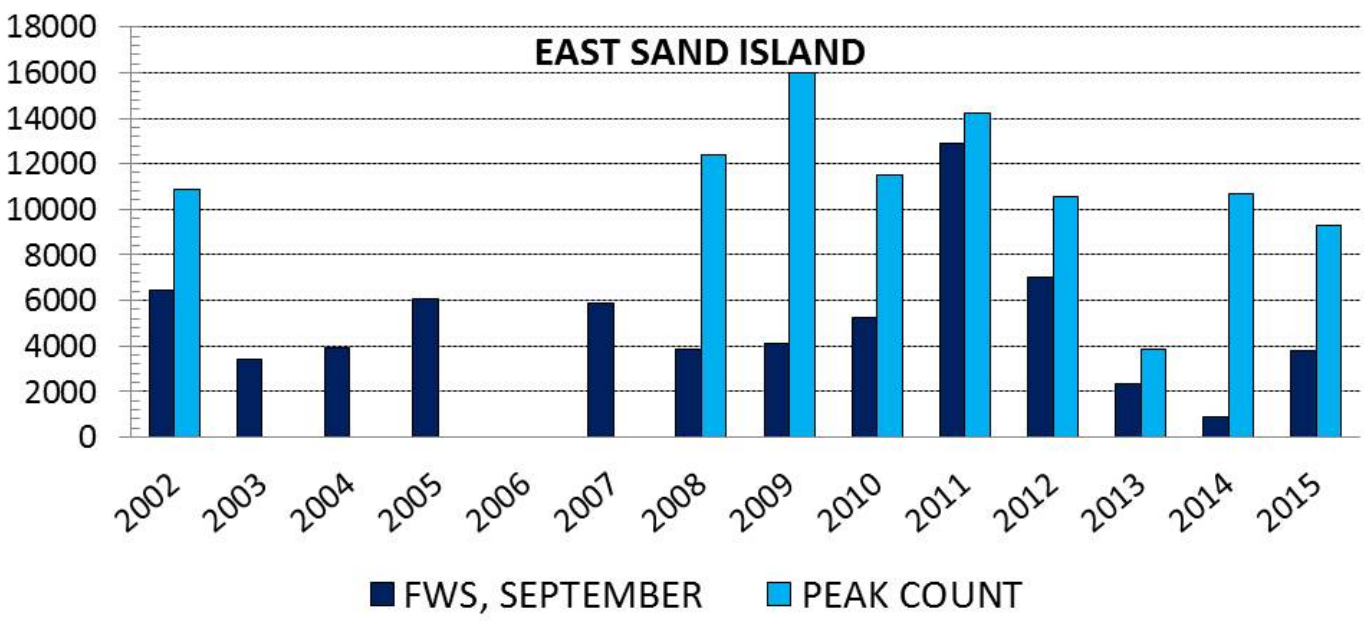
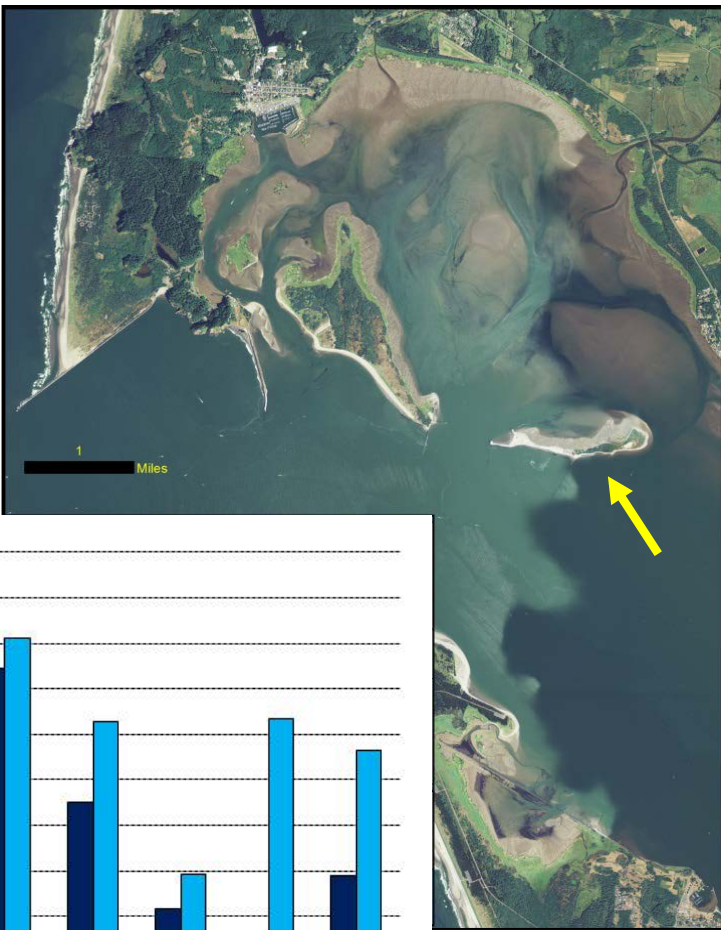
- 1,200 on Split Rock
- 800 on Destruction Island
- 2,700 on Carroll Island





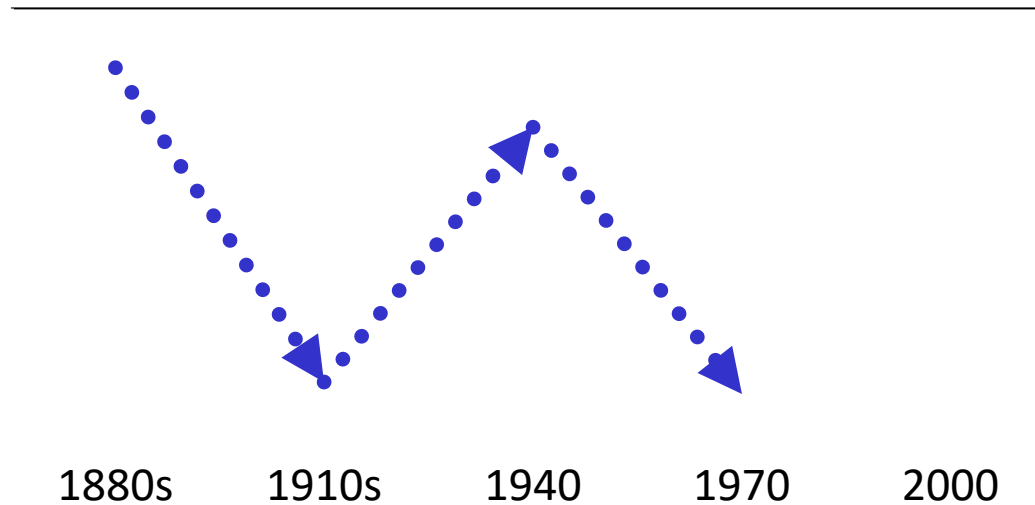
# East Sand Island (OR):

- Largest night roost in PNW
- 1979-1986: annual peak < 100
- 2009: > 16,000



# Population Status

## Brown Pelicans in Washington

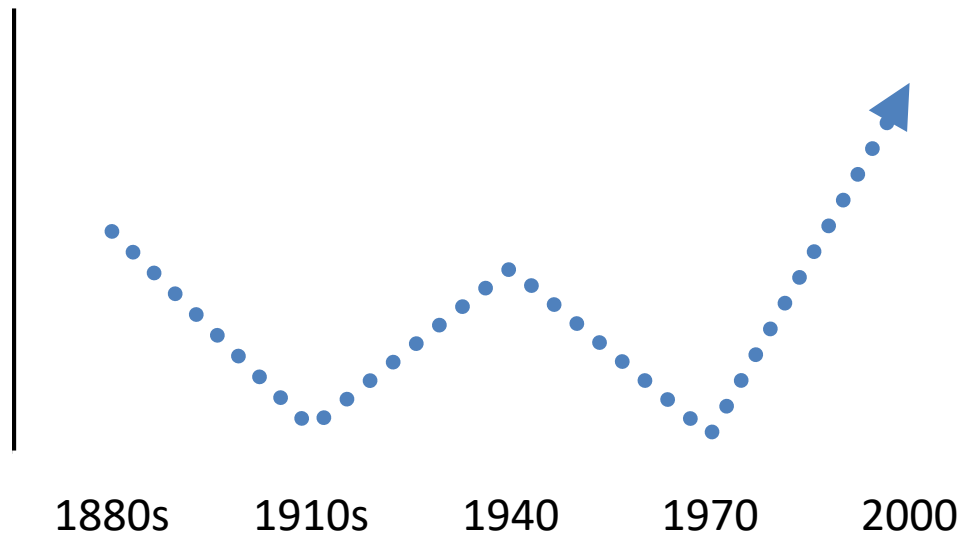


### Historically:

- 1930s-early 40s: increased
- After late 1940s, nonbreeding range retracted south
- By the 1960s, it was a "rare visitor" at Ocean Shores



# Brown Pelicans in Washington

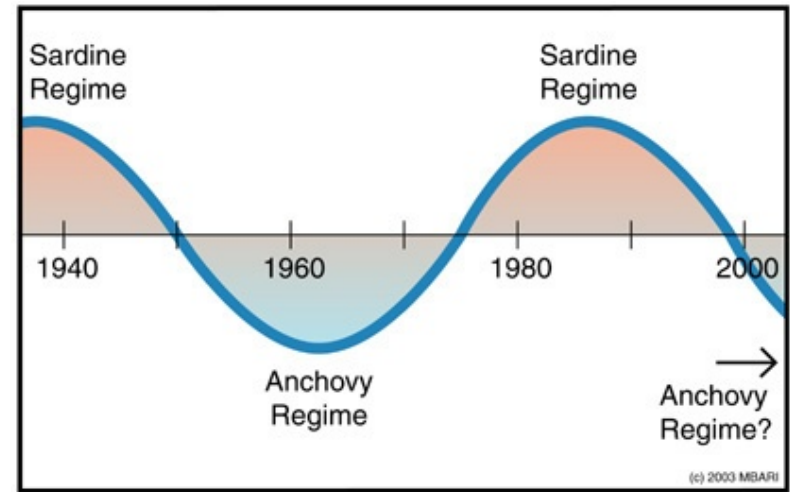


*Rebound in WA due partly to DDT ban, but ...*

- Historical retreat S began before DDT use common
- N expansion began before post-DDT increase

*Other factor involved...*





## Factors affecting pelicans: sardines & anchovies

- 20<sup>th</sup> century, fluctuated out of phase in response to ocean conditions (e.g. PDO)
  - Warm = sardines up, cold = anchovies up

### Pacific Fishery Management Council:

- Conservative forage fish harvest
- Harvest not exceed 12% of estimated biomass



# Recent trends



## Channel Islands and Gulf of California:

- Cold regime depressed sardines...2014-2016 breeding failures (Adult pelicans starved in California and Oregon)
- High production 2019-2020; numbers at historic high

## Other factors:

- Gulf fisheries affect sardine stocks, by-catch of pelicans





## Brown Pelicans are:

- **Priority Species (PHS)** due to ‘vulnerable aggregations’
- ‘**Protected wildlife**’ under state law (RCW 77.15.130)
- Protected by **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

## Recommendation

**Brown Pelican should not be re-considered for state-listing as T, E, or S at this time.**



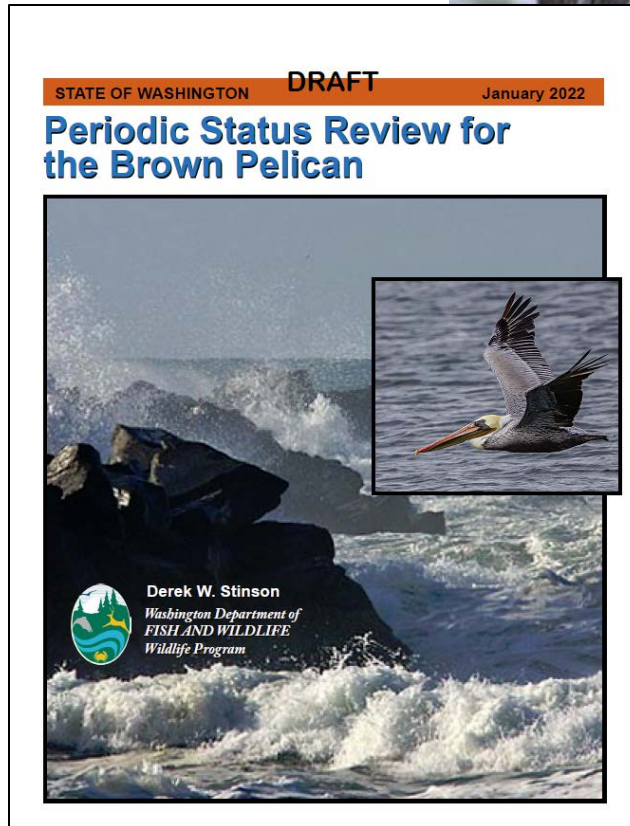
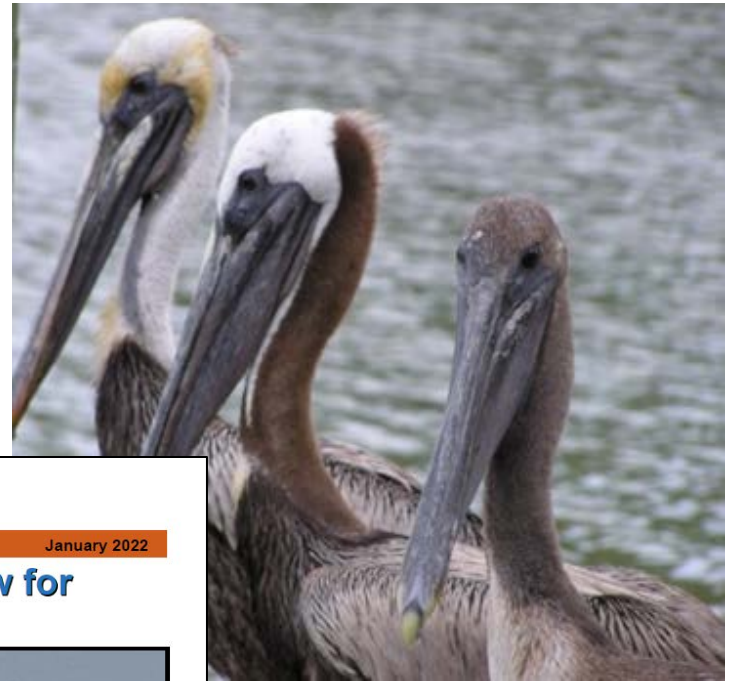


# Public Comments

public comments:

3 supported no change

0 opposed decision



# Questions?

## Acknowledgements

**Photos by many known and unknown, but including:** Joe Higbee, Deb Jaques  
**Data from:** Shawn Stephensen, Oregon Coast NWR complex, Dan Anderson,  
U. Calif-Davis; eBird