

Date: October 23, 2009

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PAWS to Take in Approximately 100 Seabirds Incapacitated by Coastal Algae Bloom

Lynnwood, Wash. -- Tonight and throughout the weekend, PAWS Wildlife Center is taking in approximately 100 weakened, at-risk seabirds—among them Western Grebes, Common Murres and Loons—to help with what is called a “seabird wreck” occurring on the outer coast of Washington and Oregon. An algae bloom is soiling the birds’ feathers, which is in turn damaging their ability to fly, float in the water and stay warm. The birds are forced to haul out onto beaches where they are incapacitated and suffer from hypothermia, starvation and death.

There are currently hundreds of birds in various pockets along the coast that have been affected by the algae bloom. Some of these birds are species which have been rapidly declining in population in Washington State. Those interested in helping PAWS cover the cost of water usage, supplies and food for these seabirds can donate online at www.paws.org or send a check to PAWS, PO Box 1037, Lynnwood, WA 98046.

- WHO:** PAWS will take approximately 100 incapacitated seabirds tonight and throughout the weekend
- WHAT:** Members of the media are invited to ask questions of PAWS Wildlife Center Director Jennifer Convy and get footage or photographs of the affected birds
- WHEN:** Saturday, October 24, 2009
11 a.m. to 12 p.m. only
- WHERE:** PAWS Wildlife Center, 15305 44th Ave. West, Lynnwood, WA 98087
[Directions to PAWS](#)
- MEDIA NOTE:** Because the large number of birds needing immediate triaging and care, the director will only be available to speak to the media for about 15 minutes starting at 11 a.m. and photos and footage need to be gathered between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

A champion for animals, PAWS is a nationally recognized leader in rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife, sheltering and adopting homeless pets, and educating people to make a better world for animals and humans.

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