

AVIAN CHOLERA - UPDATE: JAN 2014

Saint Lawrence Island

During November, hundreds of murrelets, auklets, and fulmars washed up on beaches at St. Lawrence I. Lab results on eight bird specimens indicated they had a common bacterial infection, called "avian cholera".

Every year it kills thousands of waterfowl in the US and worldwide but this event is new to our region. It is not related to a different disease in people with a similar name.

- **NO** sick birds on Saint Lawrence Island have been reported since 16-Dec.
- **NO** sick birds have been reported in any other Alaskan coastal community.
- **RUSSIA:** Hunters from New Chaplino, CHAZTO, and the ChukotINRO walrus biologist for Chukotka report **NO** sick birds seen.
- USFWS estimated 6,000-7,000 birds died in the event based on local beach surveys on Saint Lawrence Island.

DON'T WAIT: REPORT DEAD BIRDS

Please contact:

- Gay Sheffield: 1-855-443-2397 or 443-2397 (UAF-Marine Advisory Program, Nome)
- Brandon Ahmasuk: 443-4265 (Kawerak, Nome)
- Peter Bente (ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation, Nome)
- Kimberlee Beckmen dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov (ADF&G Wildlife Veterinarian, Fairbanks)

SAFE HANDLING

- Do not eat sick birds, birds with white spots on the liver, or birds that have died from unknown causes.
- Wear rubber gloves when picking up dead birds.
- Wash your hands in warm soapy water to prevent infection through cuts in your skin or from touching your mouth.
- Wash or throw away your gloves after use.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Take photos and call in what you saw!
- Please report date, location, species, number of birds