

Council Motion

Agenda E-1: Staff Tasking Northern Fur Seal

April 10, 2017

The Council requests that staff develop a discussion paper providing a synthesis of population and vital rates information for the Northern Fur Seal. The Council remains concerned about the continued decline of northern fur seals on the Pribilof Islands, and requests additional information to better understand current trends and potential impediments to population recovery.

The Council request staff include recent trends on abundance in the Eastern North Pacific (Alaskan) stock and other stocks, globally; an update on recent research, including but not limited to food habits, vital rates, summer and winter movements, and conditions in the north Pacific potentially impacting winter survival (if available).

The Council, additionally, requests regular (annual) updates from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Marine Mammal Laboratory and the Alaska Region on their northern fur seal research and management plans.