



D9 Marine Mammal Conservation Status

SSC only

February 2020 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Steve MacLean

Other presenters: Dr. Jeremy Sterling (AFSC MML), Dr. Carey Kuhn (AFSC MML) and Dr. Elizabeth McHuron (U Washington)

Action Required: Northern fur seal research – receive report and provide feedback

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the SSC requested annual updates from the AFSC Marine Mammal Laboratory (MML) for marine mammals of conservation concern, or for those marine mammals with unusual or unexpected survey results. The purpose of the update is to inform the SSC (and Council) about potential issues for marine mammals that may affect management of commercial fisheries in the GOA or BSAI. However, because of scheduling conflicts with the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in 2020, the conservation status update from the MML is postponed until April 2020.

Instead, the SSC will receive a presentation from Dr. Jeremy Sterling (AFSC MML), Dr. Carey Kuhn (AFSC MML) and Dr. Elizabeth McHuron (U Washington) providing an update and background information on a project to observe fine scale foraging patterns of northern fur seals in the Pribilof Islands, and a project to develop a population level bioenergetic model for northern fur seals in the Bering Sea.

Dr. Sterling and Dr. McHuron will also present the same information to the Ecosystem Committee during their meeting on Tuesday, January 28.