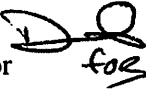


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver   
Executive Director

DATE: March 26, 2013

SUBJECT: SSL Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

ESTIMATED TIME 16 HOURS (All C-3 a, b, c items)
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**ACTION REQUIRED**

(a) Initial review Preliminary Draft EIS, receive report from the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee (SSLMC), and select Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA).

**BACKGROUND**

On March 8, 2013 NMFS released a preliminary draft of the SSL Protection Measures for Groundfish Fisheries in the BSAI Management Area EIS. The Preliminary Draft EIS was available for download from the Council website on March 8, and electronic copies on USB drives were sent to those who requested them. NMFS staff are present to provide presentations on significant chapters of the Preliminary Draft EIS.

The SSLMC met on March 21-22, 2013 in Anchorage to review the Preliminary Draft EIS and to devise a recommended PPA. The minutes from the SSLMC meeting are attached as Item C-3(a)(1), and include a detailed table which outlines the recommended PPA from the SSLMC. SSLMC Chairman Cotter is present to present the recommended PPA.

At this meeting, the Council may wish to endorse the PPA recommended by the SSLMC or devise a new PPA for analysis for the draft EIS.