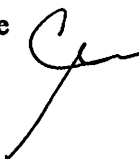


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director 

DATE: June 5, 1997

SUBJECT: Steller Sea Lion Report

ESTIMATED TIME  
4 HOURS  
(for all B items)

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Receive report on ESA listing of Steller sea lions.

**BACKGROUND**

The U.S. population of Steller sea lions, which were estimated at 190,000 adults and juveniles 30 years ago, declined by 64% to less than 69,100 by 1989. The majority of this precipitous decline occurred in Alaska between the Kenai Peninsula and Kiska Island in the Aleutians. As a result of this precipitous decline, the species was listed as threatened in 1990, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). More recent information suggests that the population has continued to decline about 8% annually. Population modeling has predicted that the Kenai-Kiska population will be extinct within 100 years if the trend continues. As a result of this continuing decline, the Kenai-Kiska population was reclassified as endangered effective June 4, 1997. A threatened listing is being maintained for the remainder of the U.S. population.

John Lewis, NMFS Protected Resources, will report to the Council on this reclassification and what changes to fisheries management might be considered.