

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver
Executive Director

DATE: March 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Protected Resources Report

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS All B Items
--

ACTION REQUIRED

Receive report on Protected Resources issues and take action as necessary.

BACKGROUND

Steller sea lions

The Preliminary Draft EIS was sent to the Council on March 8. All SSL issues will be heard under Agenda item C-3.

Upper Snake River Chinook Salmon

During a Coded Wire Tag (CWT) tunnel detector test at a Kodiak processing plant in 2012, a total of 1,203 Chinook salmon were passed through the detector, resulting in 72 CWTs recovered. Included in this number were two CWTs from Snake River fall-run Chinook, which are listed as threatened under the U.S. ESA. The two Snake River fall run Chinook CWTs were recovered in the same area (Area 630) on different days (9/17/2012, and 10/01/2012) on different vessels fishing the GOA pollock fishery. The fish had different tag codes from different release locations, different release dates, but the same brood year (2010), same stock (Lyons Ferry Hatchery), and same release agency (Nez Perce tribe).

NMFS AKR is in contact with the Northwest Region to determine what steps might be necessary regarding ESA consultation.

Deep Water Corals

On February 12, 2013 NMFS released a 90-day finding on a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to list 44 species of corals off Alaska as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. NMFS found that the petition did not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned actions may be warranted.