



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:REP 15-126

Agenda Date4/6/2015

Agenda Number:B7

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Protected Species Report

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review Protected Species report, action as necessary.

BACKGROUND:

Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat

The NMFS Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat team continues its work to review relevant information to define Critical Habitat for the western DPS of Steller sea lions. Consistent with their recent letter to the Council, they anticipate putting the biological and economic reports out for peer review once they are completed. They anticipate releasing a proposed rule by the end of the year.

Ringed Seal ESA Listing

The North Slope Borough and the State of Alaska have filed complaints challenging the listing of the Arctic subspecies of ringed seals under the U.S. Endangered Species Listing. They join the American Petroleum Institute and Alaska Oil and Gas Association challenging the ruling. On March 10 and 11 2015, respectively, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and NANA Regional Corporation sent 60-day notice letters indicating that they also planned to file a complaint challenging the ruling.

Ringed Seal Critical Habitat

The comment period on the proposed rule to establish critical habitat for Arctic subspecies of ringed seals in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seals closed on March 31, 2015. As of 3/27, NMFS had received 160 comments on regulations.gov.