

Development of Environmental Impact Statement for Steller Sea Lion Measures based on Court Order 5/31/12

Project Components	2012												2013												2014			
	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb			
Council Meetings	Council reviews Terms of Reference for CIE review of Biop		Council reviewed NOI and preliminary range of alternatives, established and tasked SSL committee						Scoping Meeting in conjunction with Council meeting		Council may review SSL Committee recommendations, Scoping Report, and CIE review of Biop. Council recommends alternative SSL protection measures for analysis in EIS				Council reviews preliminary draft analysis, recommends preliminary preferred alternative, and recommends release of draft analysis to public											Council review CAR and published draft EIS. Take final action on preferred alternative		
SSLMC			Reconstitute and identify SSLMC members	Org. Meeting	Juneau 14-15, 2010 BiOp, EIS req's, Legal issues, Review new scientific information re SSLs, fish stocks, etc.	Seattle 17-18 and TBA 30-31, Draft scoping comments & begin draft alternative		TBA 5-6, Continue draft scoping comments and alternative	TBA 17-18, Scoping meeting in conjunction with Council meeting	TBA 7-9, Finalize SSLMC Alternative. Deliver to Council before Council meeting				Review preliminary draft EIS. Comments to Council														
ESA Documentation	NMFS contracts for CIE review of Biop				Conduct CIE Review			Panel Review Aug. 1-2, Complete Review, CIE Steering Committee review of document	NMFS releases CIE review of Biop Sept. 7						Commence ESA consultation based on preliminary preferred alternative, if NMFS determines alternative is different from status quo				Complete consultation*									
NEPA		Publish NOI to Prepare an EIS	Scoping for EIS							Scoping Report to Council and post on NMFS website	Develop preliminary draft EIS			Preliminary draft EIS to Council	Revise preliminary draft EIS	Publish Draft EIS with preliminary preferred alternative, comment period beginning May 15.	60 Day Comment Period ends July 15.	Complete response to comments, develop CAR	Complete Final EIS				Publish final EIS by last week of February					
Rule making																											Start rulemaking for 2015 implementation	
Abbreviations NOI=Notice of Intent CIE=Center for Independent Experts SSL=Steller sea lion EIS=environmental impact statement NEPA=National Environmental Policy Act CAR=Comment and Response Report JAM=jeopardy to continued existence or adverse modification of critical habitat Council=North Pacific Fishery Management Council NMFS=National Marine Fisheries Service ESA=Endangered Species Act TBA = Location to be announced * Assumes that the preferred alternative would not result in JAM																												