

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

MINUTES

5-31-2012

9-11 AM

TELECONFERENCE

ATTENDEES – COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Larry Cotter-Chairman, Rudy Tsukada, Kenny Down, Alvin Osterback, Dave Fraser, Jon Warrenchuk, Gerry Merrigan, John Gauvin, Ernie Weiss, Todd Loomis, Steve MacLean-Council staff
PUBLIC ATTENDEES	Bill Wilson, Lowell Fritz, Cynthia Suchman, Doug DeMaster, Dana Segars, Paul MacGregor, Karla Bush, Mike Levine, Frank Kelty, Tom Gemmell, Nicole Kimball

Agenda topics

PURPOSE OF SSLMC

COTTER

DISCUSSION	The purpose of the SSLMC is to interact with the NMFS PR and SF staff during the development of the SSL Protection Measures EIS, and specifically to develop one or more RPAs for consideration for analysis in the EIS. The objective is to replicate the successful interactions that occurred during the 2001 RPA committee, and improve on the interactions that occurred in later committee meetings.		
CONCLUSIONS	N/A		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A			

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

COTTER

DISCUSSION	The organizational structure of the SSLMC will be both formal and informal at times. The Chairman will generally recognize Committee members first to speak, but members of the public will be allowed to participate at the Chairman's option, based upon time and other considerations. The public will be allowed to testify follow lunch of each first day, and t the start of the meeting and after lunch of the second day.		
CONCLUSIONS	N/A		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A			

SCHEDULE

COTTER

DISCUSSION	The schedule for the SSLMC to meet and complete its work is dictated by the EIS schedule. The period of time for the Committee to develop RPAs and scoping comments is during the scoping period, which ends on October 15. After that time, the Committee will develop the RPAs for presentation to the Council at the December Council meeting.		
<p>Melanie Brown gave an overview of the EIS scoping process, and schedule for completion of the scoping report. Chairman Cotter asked what NMFS' intent is for the range of scoping. The Court remand directed NMFS to analyze at least the current RPA, which focuses on the central and western Aleutians. It is likely that the current EIS will focus on the central and western Aleutians unless an issue is identified during scoping that would indicate a need to expand the scope further. A final decision on the scope of the EIS will be made when the scoping report is prepared (December 2012), and the scope of the EIS will not change after that report is complete. Based on that information Chairman Cotter stated that it is unlikely that the Committee will consider anything beyond the Aleutians for management measures. Mr. Merrigan questioned whether the Committee was limited to the Aleutians when requesting new information or data. Chairman Cotter indicated that the Committee is not geographically limited when requesting new information or data.</p> <p>The remaining schedule was discussed and modified to account for existing scheduling conflicts.</p>			
CONCLUSIONS	Schedule for upcoming meetings is:		
	June 14-15. Juneau, AK. Agenda topics include EIS/ESA requirements and other legal issues (John Lepore), review of 2012 BiOp (AK Region lead), "Getting smart" – what new information does the Committee wish to hear – suggestions include disease, contaminants, unmanned aerial vehicles. John Gauvin requested a report from NMFS re: permitting for research regarding SSL and fisheries interactions.		

	Gerry Merrigan requested presentation from NMFS regarding baseline for EIS (2004 – 2010).	
	July 17-18. Seattle, WA. Continue to Get Smart	
	July 30-31. Seattle, WA. Before EIS review panel meeting.	
	September 5-6. Location TBD	
	October 17-18. Location TBD	
	November 7-9. Location TBD	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Send Steve MacLean suggestions for new information/data for which the Committee would like to receive presentations.	Committee Members	June 15 (suggestion)

OBSERVERS	
RESOURCE PERSONS	
SPECIAL NOTES	