



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

JAN 31 2007

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we have enclosed for your review the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for Steller Sea Lion and Northern Fur Seal Research.

This DPEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts of implementing the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) future grants and Endangered Species Act/Marine Mammal Protection Act permit programs related to research on northern fur seals and threatened and endangered Steller sea lions throughout their ranges in the United States.

Additional copies of the DPEIS may be obtained from Tammy Adams, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. The document is also accessible electronically through the NMFS Protected Resources website, at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/steller.htm>.

Written comments on the DPEIS should be directed via mail, facsimile, or electronic mail to the responsible program manager identified below by April 2, 2007.

Responsible Program  
Manager:

P. Michael Payne, Chief  
Permits, Conservation and Education Division  
Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Telephone number: (301) 713-2289  
Facsimile number: (301) 427-2583  
[ssleis.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:ssleis.comments@noaa.gov)

Sincerely,

Rodney F. Weiher, Ph.D.  
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure



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