North Pacific Fishery Management Council June 2004 Meeting Agenda Item C-9 GOA SSL Protection Measure Changes

Final Motion June 13, 2004

The Council approves for final action Alternative 2 including options 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, and 2-5 which will change certain Steller sea lion protection measures in the Gulf of Alaska pollock trawl fishery and Pacific cod pot fishery.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. Open certain areas to groundfish fishing around three GOA SSL haulouts and close to pollock trawl fishing an area around another GOA SSL haulout; eliminate certain pollock season stand-down periods and change procedures for pollock TAC rollover.

Option 2-1. Open the closed area around the Puale Bay SSL haulout seaward of 3 nm for pollock trawl fishing during January 20 through May 31. All other existing fishing restrictions around Puale Bay remain unchanged. Close the area around the Cape Douglas/Shaw Island SSL haulout to 20 nm to pollock trawling from January 20 through May 31.

Option 2-2. Open the closed area around the Kak Island SSL haulout seaward of 3 nm for Pacific cod pot fishing.

Option 2-3. Open an area around the Castle Rock SSL haulout to the shoreline for Pacific cod pot fishing.

Option 2-4. Remove the two-week stand-down periods between the A and B seasons and between the C and D seasons in the GOA pollock trawl fishery. Allow continuous fishing from the A season into the B season (and from the C season into the D season) until the quarterly TAC is reached or the season ends.

Option 2-5. Change the method for rolling over unharvested pollock TAC in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas in the GOA pollock trawl fishery. Allow management to roll over any unharvested TAC within the same region and up to the 20 percent limit of the seasonal apportionment so that any unharvested TAC apportioned to an area may be further rolled over into subsequent seasons during the fishing year in proportion to the projected pollock biomass in those areas (as estimated by the Plan Teams and detailed annually in the November Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation reports).