North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee Meeting
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
October 16-18, 2007

Purpose: Initiate proposal analysis, review databases and demo products, adopt goals, identify information needs and develop data requests. Review Council meeting on SSL Recovery Plan.

AGENDA

October 16 - 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

1. Introductions and Opening Remarks, Announcements, Agenda Approval (Cotter)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (Wilson)

3. Update on August 2007 Council Meeting in Anchorage (Cotter, Wilson)

4. Initiate Proposal Analysis (Cotter)

   (a) Review 2001/2002 RPA Process and Criteria (Cotter, DeMaster)
   (b) Review Applicable Federal Laws and Orders (Lepore)
   (c) Review Jeopardy and Adverse Modification Standards/Criteria (DeMaster, Lepore)
   (d) Adopt SSLMC Goals and Objectives (All)
   (e) Review and demonstrate data bases available for proposal analysis (Lewis)

   - VMS Enabled Catch-In-Areas database by GIS shapefile 2003 - 2006. This is a product that transfers the attributes of a shapefile, e.g., 0-3, 3-10, 10-20 n mi to the fully accounted databases: Catch Accounting System. It will automatically split the database records as necessary to facilitate this process. Includes the attributes found in the Catch Accounting System to include Vessel ID, Vessel Class, Processing Sector, Fish Caught Code, Target Code, Directed Fishery Code, NMFS Reporting Areas, Tons, Date, and many other items. Fully accounts for unobserved vessel classes such as smaller vessels and jig vessels. It uses both VMS and Observer point data to process GIS data into the database.

   - VMS Enabled Catch-In-Areas database by Area 2003 - 2006. Has all groundfish catch by state statistical area and is currently being made available in smaller 20km and 5km blocks. Also includes all the attributes found in the Catch Accounting System.

   - Catch of Atka m, pollock, P cod inside/outside CH, by zone, by year, updated through 2006. Updated tables from 2003 Supplement to 2001 BiOp. Tables generated from database listed above.

   - Observer Data 1992 - 2006. Observer data unextrapolated.

- Observer point data coarsely extrapolated to Blend and Catch Accounting for P.cod, pollock, and Atka mackerel. Does not account for unobserved or lightly observed vessel fleet.

- Catch By Vessel/Catch In Areas By State Stat Area: 1995 - 2001. This is a combination of Observer Data, Fish Ticket Data, and WPR data to account for the catch. Includes most of the information found in Blend/Catch Accounting System data. The resolution is the state stat area.

- Catch by SSL Site Location. Database includes expanded observer data and analysis for each of the 151 Steller sea lion sites individually. Where the 20nm buffers of CH overlap, so do the catch data, but this allows analysis of catch around the sites individually. Data is query-able by individual site.

- A series of lookup tables to discriminate between fleets of vessels.

- Lookup tables for economic analyses.

- Bathymetric data. More detailed bathymetry products can be generated to examine portions of a region's bathymetry - perhaps even overlay it with SSL telemetry or other data.

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(f) Review updated SSL count and telemetry data (Fritz, Gelatt)
(g) Initiate Proposal Analysis Using Available Databases and OTMCs
(h) Identify Information Needs and Develop Data Requests

October 18 – 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

5. Continue Proposal Analysis

6. Discuss Committee Meeting Schedule

7. Action Items, Closing Remarks, Adjourn (Cotter)

Public comment periods will be provided during the meeting.

Contact Bill Wilson at the Council offices if you have questions: 907-271-2809 or bill.wilson@noaa.gov