

**Center for Independent Experts:  
Terms of Reference for Review of the draft Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*)  
Recovery Plan dated May 2007**

The first Steller Sea Lion (SSL) Recovery Plan was completed in 1992 and provided recovery guidance to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the species, which at that time was listed range-wide as threatened.

NMFS organized a new SSL Recovery Team in January 2002, and charged the new Team with writing a revised Plan to reflect the current view of stock structure and the differences in stock status under the ESA (eastern Distinct Population Segment (DPS) listed as threatened, and western DPS listed as endangered). The Team completed its draft of the second Plan in February 2006, at which time the Team sought an external peer review from 5 highly qualified experts (see Attachment 1).

Upon receipt of the peer reviewer comments, the Team revised the Plan and submitted it to NMFS. NMFS released the Plan for public review in May 2006 and received detailed written comments from 18 parties or individuals. Based on these comments and those of the expert reviewers listed above, NMFS revised the Plan into the document being presented to the Center for Independent Experts (CIE) for an additional peer review (document dated May 2007).

The CIE experts' comments will assist NMFS in making recovery decisions for the Steller sea lion based upon the best scientific and commercial data available (as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended).

**Reviewer Requirements**

The CIE shall provide three expert reviewers. Each reviewer's duties shall require a maximum of five days of effort, including time to read the relevant document and to produce an individual written report consisting of his/her comments and recommendations. No travel is required; each reviewer shall work from his/her home location. Each reviewer's report shall reflect his/her area(s) of expertise, and no consensus opinion (or report) will be required.

Expertise of the reviewers needed to review the subject document includes the following:

\* Familiarity with relevant sections of the Endangered Species Act ([http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/usc\\_sup\\_01\\_16\\_10\\_35.html](http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/usc_sup_01_16_10_35.html)), and as applicable, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and related wildlife management legislation (e.g., NEPA).

In particular,

- \* Experience as a Recovery Team member, contributor, or reviewer of Recovery Plans developed for other listed species; as a current or recently retired employee of a federal or state agency holding a position implementing ESA regulations; or from an academic position that has focused on ESA statutes and implementation.
- \* In depth expertise in the biology and management of marine and/or other large; specifically population dynamics, reproductive and foraging biology and physiological ecology.

\* NMFS requests that former reviewers and former SSL Recovery Team members and support staff be specifically excluded from consideration as reviewers of this document. See Attachment 1, below.

### Specific Reviewer Tasks and Schedule

The Alaska Region shall provide the CIE with copies of the May 2007 draft revised SSL Recovery Plan for the review, or a link to it, by May 31, 2007. Delay in meeting this schedule will result in a minimum of an equivalent delay in delivering the final CIE reviews. The document to be reviewed will be approximately 200 pages in length.

1. The CIE reviewers shall read and assess the May 2007 draft revised Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) Recovery Plan.
2. The CIE reviewers shall focus on and address the following questions in their review reports:
  - Does the Plan thoroughly describe what is known about potential threats to both the eastern and western populations of Steller sea lion? Are there additional significant threats to the species? Does the evidence presented in the Recovery Plan support the threats assessment?
  - Is the ecological and biological information presented in the Plan adequate, thorough, and scientifically defensible?
  - Does the Plan adequately present an ecologically and biologically defensible recovery strategy for the western population of Steller sea lion? Describe any shortcomings in the recovery strategy.
  - Are the recovery actions described within the Plan appropriate to meet recovery goals? Are the recovery actions consistent with the SSL life history information, population dynamics and threats assessment presented in the Plan? Are there other recovery actions that have not been included in the Plan that should be included to achieve recovery?
  - Are the recovery tasks in the Plan's Implementation Schedule appropriately prioritized to facilitate recovery?
  - Does the information in the Plan appropriately support the recovery criteria described in the Plan? Are the recovery criteria consistent with and do they meet the requirement of the ESA to ensure the conservation of the species (i.e., recovery and ultimate delisting: "conservation" as defined in the ESA 16 USC § 1532 (3))?
3. No later than June 29, 2007 each CIE reviewer shall submit a written report<sup>1</sup> to the CIE that addresses the points in item 2 above. See Annex I for additional details on the report outline.

---

<sup>1</sup> Each written report will undergo an internal CIE review before it is considered final.

Each report shall be sent to Dr. David Die, via email at [ddie@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:ddie@rsmas.miami.edu), and to Mr. Manoj Shivlani, via email at [mshivlani@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:mshivlani@rsmas.miami.edu)

### **Submission and Acceptance of CIE Reports**

The CIE shall provide the final individual reviewer reports for review for compliance with this Statement of Work and approval by NOAA Fisheries to the COTR, Dr. Stephen K. Brown ([Stephen.K.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:Stephen.K.Brown@noaa.gov)), no later than July 13, 2007. The COTR shall notify the CIE via e-mail regarding acceptance of the reviewers' reports. Following the COTR's approval, the CIE shall provide pdf format copies of the reviewers' reports to the COTR.

**ATTACHMENT 1.**

**STELLER SEA LION RECOVERY TEAM MEMBERS (October 24, 2001-2007)**

Dr. Robert J. Small  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526  
Tel: 907-465-6167  
Fax: 907-465-6142  
E-mail: bob\_small@fishgame.state.ak.us

Mr. Vernon Byrd  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2355 Kachemak Bay Drive, Suite 101  
Homer, AK 99603-8021  
Tel: 907-235-6546  
Fax: 907-235-7783  
E-mail: vernon\_byrd@fws.gov

Mr. Donald Calkins  
Steller Sea Lion Program Manager  
Alaska SeaLife Center  
301 Railway Avenue  
P.O. Box 1329  
Seward, AK 99664  
Tel: 907-224-6325  
Fax: 907-224-6320  
E-mail: don\_calkins@alaskasealife.org

Dr. David Hanson  
3468 22nd St. NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
Tel: 218-675-5231  
Fax: 218-675-5231  
E-mail: dave\_hanson@psmfc.org

Ms. Donna Parker  
Arctic Storm  
400 North 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 306  
Seattle, Washington 98103  
Tel: 206-547-6557, EXT 116  
Fax: 206-547-3165  
E-mail: dparker@arcticstorm.com

Ms. Lianna Jack  
Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission  
6239 "B" Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518  
Tel: 907-274-9799  
Fax: 907-274-9022  
E-mail: asoc@alaska.net

Dr. Terrie Williams  
Department of EE Biology  
Center for Ocean Health - Long Marine Lab  
100 Shaffer Road  
UCSC  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Tel: 831-459-5123  
Fax: 831-459-3383  
E-mail: williams@biology.ucsc.edu

Dr. Alan Springer  
Institute of Marine Science  
Room 262 AHRB  
University of Alaska  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-1080  
Tel: 907-474-6213  
Fax: 907-474-7204  
Email: ams@ims.alaska.edu

Dr. Thomas Loughlin  
NMFS National Marine Mammal Laboratory  
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 4  
Seattle, WA 98115  
Tel: 206-526-4040  
Fax: 206-526-4004  
E-mail: tom.loughlin@noaa.gov

Mr. Dave Fraser  
High Seas Catchers' Coop  
111 First Avenue South #205  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Tel: 206-399-0742  
Fax: 708-575-0382  
E-mail: dfraser@olympus.net

Mr. Ken Stump  
5033 Brooklyn Ave, NE  
Apartment A  
Seattle, Washington 98105  
Tel: 206-517-5657  
Fax: 206-517-5657  
E-mail: magpie@speakeasy.net

Ms. Kate Wynne  
University of Alaska  
Sea Grant Program  
118 Trident Way  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
Tel: 907-486-1517  
Fax: 907-486-1540  
E-mail: [ffkmw@aurora.alaska.edu](mailto:ffkmw@aurora.alaska.edu)

Dr. Shannon Atkinson  
Alaska SeaLife Center  
P.O. Box 1329  
Seward, Alaska 99664-1329  
Tel: 907-224-6346  
Fax: 907-224-6320  
E-mail: [shannon\\_atkinson@alaskasealife.org](mailto:shannon_atkinson@alaskasealife.org)

Mr. Lowell Fritz  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Building 4  
Seattle, Washington 99815-6349  
Tel: 206-526-4246  
Fax: 206-526-4004  
E-mail: [lowell.fritz@noaa.gov](mailto:lowell.fritz@noaa.gov)

Dr. Andrew W. Trites  
North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research  
Consortium  
Hut B-3, 6248 Biological Science Road  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
V6T 1Z4  
Tel: 604-822-8181  
Fax: 604-822-8180  
E-mail: [trites@zoology.ubc.ca](mailto:trites@zoology.ubc.ca)

Dr. Douglas Eggers (left in 2004)  
replaced by: Mr. Denby Lloyd (ADF&G)  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

**Peer Reviewers of the 2006 Draft Plan:**

Mr. Ed Bangs (US Fish and Wildlife Service)  
Dr. Bob Hofman (Retired, U.S. Marine Mammal  
Commission)  
Dr. Don Siniff (Retired, University of Minnesota)  
Dr. Don Bowen, and (Bedford Institute of Oceanography)  
Dr. Terry Quinn (University of Alaska Fairbanks and  
member of the North Pacific Fishery Management  
Council's Science and Statistical Committee).

**Contributors**

Dr. Dan Goodman, Montana State University

Dr. Tom Gelatt  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526  
Tel: 907-267-2182  
Fax: 907-267-2859  
E-mail: [tom\\_gelatt@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:tom_gelatt@fishgame.state.ak.us)

Mr. Robin Samuelson  
P.O. Box 412  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
Tel: 907-842-2743  
Fax: 907-842-5939  
E-mail: [sockeye1@nushtel.com](mailto:sockeye1@nushtel.com)

Dr. Ken Pitcher  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526  
Tel: 907-267-2182  
Fax: 907-267-2859  
E-mail: [ken\\_pitcher@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:ken_pitcher@fishgame.state.ak.us)

Linda Behnken  
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association  
403 Lincoln Street, Suite 237  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
Tel: 907-747-3462  
Fax: 907-747-3462  
E-mail: [alfafish@ptialaska.net](mailto:alfafish@ptialaska.net)

Dr. Dan Hennen, Alaska Sealife Center

**Members of the first Recovery Plan (issued 1992):**

Dayton L. Alverson, Natural Resources Consultants  
Jim Branson, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Vernon Byrd, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Donald Calkins, Alaska Dept. Fish and Game  
Robert Gisiner, Dept. of the Navy  
Carolyn Heath, Fullerton College  
Pete Isleib, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Jack Lentfer, Marine Mammal Commission  
Lloyd Lowry, Alaska Dept of Fish & Game  
Donald Siniff, University of Minnesota

## **ANNEX 1. Contents of CIE Reviewer's Report**

1. The reviewer's report shall be prefaced with an executive summary of findings and/or recommendations.
2. The main body of the reviewer's report shall consist of a background, description of the review, summary of findings, and conclusions/recommendations. The summary of findings shall address each Term of Reference.
3. The reviewer's report shall include as separate appendices the bibliography of materials provided for the review and a copy of the CIE Statement of Work.

Please refer to the following website for additional information on report generation:  
<http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/groups/cie/cierevrep.htm>