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Attorneys for Defendants

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

STATE OF ALASKA,)	
)	CASE NO. 3:10-CV-00271-TMB
Plaintiffs,)	
)	DEFENDANTS' SECOND
v.)	STATUS REPORT
JANE LUBCHENCO, et al.)	

State of Alaska v. Lubchenco, et al.
Case No. 3:10-CV-00271-TMB
Defs' Second Status Report

Defendants.)	
)	
<hr/>)	
ALASKA SEAFOOD COOPERATIVE, et al.,)	
)	CASE NO. 3:11-CV-00001-TMB
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE,)	
et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
<hr/>)	
FREEZER LONGLINE COALITION,)	
)	CASE NO. 3:11-CV-00004-TMB
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
JANE LUBCHENCO, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
<hr/>)	

Federal Defendants Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, et al., pursuant to the Court’s March 5, 2012 Order (Docket 142) at 13, submit the following status report.

As noted in the Defendants’ First Status Report (Docket 158), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a notice in the Federal Register of the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and the initiation of the scoping process regarding the Steller sea lion protection measures for groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area. The scoping meeting will be held in coordination with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) commencing at 5:30 PM, October 2, 2012, in the

same location as the October Council meeting. The Council has included the scoping meeting on its agenda and in its Federal Register notice of the October Council meeting (77 Fed. Reg. 56611, September 13, 2012). At the scoping meeting, NMFS will present background on the development of the EIS and scoping issues that have been identified. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions of NMFS staff regarding the EIS and may submit written comments at that time. The scoping period ends October 15, 2012.

To facilitate public access to the EIS process, NMFS continues to update its Alaska Region webpage to display the most recent information regarding the EIS and supporting documents, including posting the Federal Register scoping meeting notice and posting a form for requesting a paper copy of the draft EIS. This site is available at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/sslpm/eis/default.htm>.

The NMFS participated in the Council's Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee meetings on July 16-17, July 30-31, and September 5-7, 2012. NMFS is supporting that committee in gathering the best available information to inform the development of one or more alternatives that may be analyzed in the EIS.

The next status report is due January 2, 2013.

DATED this 28th day of September 2012 at Anchorage, Alaska.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 28th day of September 2012 a copy of the foregoing DEFENDANTS' SECOND STATUS REPORT was served by electronically to the following:

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