

Council Motion on Steller Sea Lion Mitigation EIS (C-4)
December 2012

1. The Council acknowledges NMFS' efforts to produce the EIS consistent with the court order and timelines approved therein, fully incorporating the findings of both independent reviews, and providing full analysis of all relevant issues. |
2. The Council expects the EIS to state how alternatives considered and decisions based on it will or will not achieve the requirements of other environmental laws.
3. The Council expects the EIS process will result in reconsultation on a package of fishery measures that, when compared to the 2010 BiOp, better balance the need to protect Steller sea lion populations in the central and western AI, the needs of the groundfish fisheries and fishery dependent communities, using the best scientific information as a foundation, including the results of the peer-review process.
4. The Council forwards the two alternatives developed by the SSLMC for analysis in the EIS, with the following modifications:
 - a. In Alternative 1, strike language for Pacific cod Area 542/541 starting with "Option 1: Limit to HAL..." and ending with "Option 2: Include Mothership participation".
 - b. In Alternative 2, strike language for Pacific cod area 543 starting with "Option 1: Limit to HAL..." and ending with "Option 2: Include Mothership participation".

In addition, the Council moves a third alternative which consists of the regulations and RPAs for Atka mackerel and Pacific cod in place prior to adoption of the 2011 Interim Final Rule, adjusted to take into account changes in fishery management that have occurred since 2003 (e.g., Amendment 80, etc.), and for walleye pollock, includes the measures contained in SSLMC Alternative 2 to allow a fishery in areas 543, 542, 541.