



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

December 1, 2017

Dan Hull, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Hull:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is writing to inform you that we are initiating a 5-year review for the endangered western distinct population segment (DPS) of Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Under the ESA, NMFS is required to conduct 5-year reviews to ensure that the listing classifications of species are accurate. The 5-year review must be based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review. Thus, we will soon publish in the Federal Register a notice requesting submission of any such information on the western DPS of Steller sea lion, particularly information on the status, threats, and recovery of the species that has become available since the final listing determination in May, 1997 (62 FR 24345). The Federal Register notice will include more details as to the 5-year review process and the kinds of information that we seek. We anticipate a 60-day public comment period. If you have specific questions about this 5-year review, please contact Dr. Lisa Rotterman (lisa.rotterman@noaa.gov) or Mr. Jon Kurland (jon.kurland@noaa.gov).

We will keep the Council and other stakeholders informed as this process proceeds.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region

