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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' FIRST
v.)	STATUS REPORT
JANE LUBCHENCO, et al.)	
)	

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

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has met the first deadline to date in the U. S. District Court’s March 5, 2012 Order. A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and a request for comments was published in the Federal Register on April 17, 2012, 77 Fed Reg. 22750-53. The scoping period for the EIS is for a 6 month time period, with comments due on October 15, 2012. Id. An initial list of scoping issues have been compiled from the Bernard et al 2011 review of the 2010 biological opinion, and from briefings

provided to the Court for this lawsuit. This initial list of issues is available to the public from the NMFS Alaska Region website at

<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/sslpm/eis/scopingissues0512.pdf>.

To improve public access to the EIS process, a webpage containing information regarding the Steller sea lion protection measures EIS and supporting documents was created. This site is available at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/sslpm/eis/default.htm>.

A mass mailing to all Alaska tribal entities of the Notice of Intent for the Steller sea lion protection measures EIS was completed on May 7, 2012. No responses have yet been received from any of these tribal entities.

The State of Alaska, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) have agreed to be cooperating agencies for the Steller sea lion protection measures EIS. The first organizational and training meeting and one check-in meeting have been held for the Steller sea lion protection measures EIS writing team. The team includes NMFS, State of Alaska, USFWS and USCG staff. Team members are gathering the best available information, developing background sections, and identifying methods for analyzing the effects of the alternatives on each environmental component.

The NMFS participated in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee meetings on May 31 and June 14-15, 2012. NMFS is supporting the committee in gathering the best available information to inform the development of one or more alternatives that may be analyzed in the Steller sea lion protection measures EIS.

The next status report is due October 1, 2012.

DATED this 29th day of June 2012 at Anchorage, Alaska.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 29th day of June 2012 a copy of the foregoing DEFENDANTS' FIRST STATUS REPORT was served by electronically to the following:

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