Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

February 11, 2011

Kaja Brix
Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division
Alaska Regional Office
National Marine Fishery Service
Post Office Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

RE: RIN 0648–XA046; Request for information for 90 day findings on petitions to delist the Eastern Distinct Population Segment of Stellers Sea Lion

Ms. Brix:

The states of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, and the member tribes of the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, agree with the December 13, 2010 announcement by the National Marine Fisheries Service (75fr77602) on the 90 day finding regarding the states' petitions for delisting of the Eastern Distinct Population Segment of Stellers Sea Lion (eDPS SSL). The published announcement also included a request for submission of any additional scientific or commercial information that may be useful to the service in completing its status review within the 12 month time frame from the submission of the states' petitions.

Submission of additional scientific or commercial information

Marine mammal scientists for the three states have reviewed datasets available to them, and consulted with other scientists with a number of Pacific Northwest treaty tribes, Canadian government, and academia. Pursuant to our review, we have identified several data sets in addition to those sets that were either provided or referenced in our 2010 petitions. Those additional data sets and references are listed in the attached tables.

Summary of protected area status

All rocks and islands used by SSL in Oregon are included in National Wildlife Refuges: Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge (coast-wide) and Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge (Tillamook County, North Coast). Human activity on refuges is prohibited except by Special Use Permit primarily limited to research and management activities. In addition, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has seasonal (reproductive season, April-August) closures for

sport and commercial fisheries in the areas within 1000 feet of the three primary rookeries on the South Coast (one at Rogue Reef and two at Orford Reef). The Oregon State Marine Board also established a closure to all vessel traffic within 500 feet of the North Oregon Coast rookery at Three Arch Rocks. All rocks and islands used by SSL on the Washington Coast are also under federal protection, which is generally overlapping. There are three National Wildlife Refuges: Copalis, Flattery Rocks, and Quillayute Needles, as well as the Olympic National Park and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Carroll Island and Sea Lion Rocks are likely the most critical habitat on the Washington Coast since they host large numbers and support an increasing number of births (25 in 2010); they are included in the Quillayute Needles National Wildlife Refuge. Protection of SSL haulouts in inshore waters is not universal, but is still fairly comprehensive. Three National Wildlife Refuges: Dungeness, Protection Island, San Juan Islands, protect several important SSL haulout and foraging areas. Protected areas in Alaska are also extensive, and are detailed in the attached materials.

Considerations for Post-delisting monitoring recommendations

The states and tribes believe that the scientific evidence presented in the petitions demonstrates that the eDPS has achieved the recovery objectives, and that the additional information provided via this letter will confirm that. Consequently, we are beginning to plan for the long-term monitoring efforts that will provide the information to determine whether the eDPS remains healthy. We are aware that numerous potential monitoring activities have been suggested for post-delisting monitoring, and have reviewed those suggestions as well as our own considerations. Based on that review, we currently offer the following two recommended post-delisting monitoring activities:

- Conduct periodic surveys to estimate population trends (pups and non-pups).
- Monitor the protection of important terrestrial habitat (rookery and haulout sites).

This is not an exhaustive list of monitoring activities of SSL; rather these are the activities that we recommend for post-delisting monitoring. Other monitoring activities will be on-going under the Marine Mammal Protection Act processes regulating fisheries interactions, small take exemptions, research permit requirements and marine mammal health monitoring programs.

These include:

- Monitor for unusual mortality events via a stranding network including impacts from fishing gear and other human related materials (e.g., plastic bands, discarded fishing nets, flashers).
- Monitor incidental takes in fisheries.
- Monitor direct takes.
- Monitor frequency and severity of Steller sea lion-human interactions in ports and harbors.
- Monitor impacts of research activities.
- Monitor for disease and health related to contaminants.

The states and tribes do not have the resources to provide any of these monitoring activities without federal funding, and although these monitoring activities are important following delisting, it appears unlikely that those resources will be available in the near term. We strongly encourage the service to consult with the states and tribes prior to developing post-delisting monitoring recommendations, in order to secure a funding base sufficient to support monitoring activities. The states and tribes will continue to contribute as much monitoring as feasible adjunct to other field work and management activities; while those ancillary efforts have proved very valuable in recent years they are not a substitute for dedicated funding for periodic monitoring.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide supplemental information, as well as our recommendations for long-term monitoring. We look forward to a positive finding on our petitions, and regulations to implement the delisting. Please contact us directly should you have any questions or concerns about this information or our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Wm. Tweit

For Steve Williams
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sincerely,

Wm. Tweit

Bill Tweit
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sincerely,

Doug Vincent-Lang
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Sincerely,

Wm. Tweit

For Mike Matylewich
Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission

Enclosures

cc: Terry Wright, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Jonathon Scordino, Makah Indian Tribes
Peter Olesiuk, Canadian Department of Fisheries & Oceans

Table 1. Additional OR, WA, and BC Steller Sea Lion Datasets and Contact by Agency

Source	Data sets	Contact
ODFW	Oregon Steller Sea Lion Rookeries	Robin Brown, Bryan Wright
WDFW	WA Steller Sea Lion counts 2004-2010	Steven Jeffries
NMML	Oregon Steller Sea Lion Rookeries	Robert DeLong, Pat Gearin
	Northern WA Steller Sea Lion Counts	Robert DeLong, Pat Gearin
Makah Tribe	WA Steller and CA Sea Lion Counts	Jonathan Scordino
	OR Steller Sea Lion Rookery Data	
CDFO	BC Survey data through 2010	Peter Olesiuk

STELLER SEA LION
Eastern Distinct Population Segment

STATE OF ALASKA INFORMATION

Protected Lands in the State of Alaska that Aid in the Conservation of the Eastern Steller Sea Lion DPS

There are many protected areas in the State of Alaska that aid in the conservation of the Eastern Steller sea lion DPS. The following is a list of areas protected by the State of Alaska, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service within the range of the Eastern Steller sea lion DPS (east of Longitude 144°).

- Yakataga State Refuge
- Mendenhall Wetlands State Refuge
- Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area
- Chilkat River Critical Habitat Area
- Stan Price Sanctuary
- Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve
- Chilkat State Park
- Chilkoot Lake State Recreation Site
- Eagle Beach State Recreation Area
- Halibut Point State Recreation Site
- Petroglyph Beach State Historic Site
- Point Bridget State Park
- Portage Cove State Recreation Site
- Refuge Cove State Recreation Site
- Settlers Cove State Recreation Site

State Marine Parks:

- Beecher Pass State Marine Park
- Big Bear/Baby Bear State Marine Park
- Black Sands Beach State Marine Park
- Channel Islands State Marine Park
- Chilkat Islands State Marine Park
- Dall Bay State Marine Park
- Funter Bay State Marine Park
- Grindall Island State Marine Park
- Joe Mace Island State Marine Park
- Magoun Island State Marine Park

- Oliver Inlet State Marine Park
- Sea Lion Cove State Marine Park
- Security Bay State Marine Park
- Shelter Island State Marine Park
- St. James Bay State Marine Park
- Sullivan Island State Marine Park
- Taku Harbor State Marine Park
- Thorn's Place State Marine Park
- Betton Island State Marine Park
- Grant Island State Marine Park
- Salmon Bay State Marine Park
- Mill Creek State Marine Park
- Pavlov Harbor Stat Marine Park
- Hole in the Wall State Marine Park
- High Island State Marine Park
- Kayak Island State Marine Park

Federally Protected Areas:

- Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
- Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
- Tongass National Forest

Alaska Department of Fish and Game:

Division of Wildlife Conservation—Marine Mammal Program

On August 23, 2010, the Marine Mammal Program provided Lisa Rotterman, the NMFS Alaska Region Steller Sea Lion Coordinator, with a large packet of information including publications, posters, a white paper, and scientific conference presentation abstracts. The following is a bibliography of all information provided to NMFS at that point. Complete pdfs of any of the listed files can be provided upon request.

Publications:

Carrasco, S.E., K.A. Burek, J.L. Oaks, K.B. Beckmen, M.A. Davis, K.N.K. Baker, and J.A.K. Mazet. In press. Aerobic oral and rectal bacteria of free-ranging Steller sea lion pups and juveniles (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in Alaska. Journal of Wildlife Diseases.

Hastings, K.K., T.S. Gelatt, and J.C. King. 2009. Postbranding Survival of Steller sea lion pups at Lowrie Island in Southeast Alaska. Journal of Wildlife Management 73(7):1040-1051. DOI: 10.2193/2007-208.

Kaplan, C.C., G.C. White, and B.R. Noon. 2008. Neonatal survival of Steller sea lions (Eumetopias jubatus). Marine Mammal Science 24(3):443-461.

McClenahan, S.D, K. Bok, S.V. Sosnovtsev, J.D. Neill, K.A. Burek, K.B. Beckmen, A.W. Smith, K.Y. Green, and C.H. Romero. 2010. Expression and self-assembly of virus-like particles from two genotypes of marine vesiviruses and development of an ELISA for the detection of antibodies. Veterinary Microbiology 142:184-192.

Noren, D.P., L.D. Rea and T.R. Loughlin. 2009. A model to predict fasting capabilities and utilization of body energy stores in weaned Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) during periods of reduced prey availability. Canadian Journal of Zoology 87:852-864.

Pendleton, G.W., K.W. Pitcher, L. Fritz, A. York, K.L. Raum-Suryan, T.R. Loughlin, D. Calkins, K.K. Hastings, and T.S. Gelatt. 2006. Survival of Steller sea lions in Alaska: a comparison of increasing and decreasing populations. Canadian Journal of Zoology 84:1163-1172.

Pitcher, K.W., P. Olesiuk, R. Brown, M. Lowry, S. Jeffries, J. Sease, W. Perryman, C. Stinchcomb, and L. Lowry. 2007. Abundance and distribution of the eastern North Pacific Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) population. Fishery Bulletin 107:102-115.

Raum-Suryan, K.L., L.A. Jemison, and K.W. Pitcher. 2009. Entanglement of Steller sea lions *(Eumetopias jubatus)* in marine debris: Identifying causes and finding solutions. Marine Pollution Bulletin 58:1487-1495.

Rea, L.D., M. Berman, D.A.S. Rosen, and A.W. Trites. 2009. Seasonal differences in biochemical adaptation to fasting in juvenile and subadult Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*). Physiological and Biochemical Zoology 82(3):236-247.

Rehberg, M.J., R.D. Andrews, D.G. Calkins, and U.G. Swain. 2009. Foraging behavior of adult female Steller sea lions during the breeding season in Southeast Alaska. Marine Mammal Science 25(3):588-604. DOI:10.1111/j.748-7692.2008.00278.x

Sigler, M.F., D.J. Tollit, J.J. Vollenweider, J.F. Thedinga, D.J. Csepp, J.N. Womble, M.A. Wong, M.J. Rehberg and A.W. Trites. 2009. Steller sea lion foraging response to seasonal changes in prey availability. Marine Ecology Progress Series 388:243-261.

Trites, A.W., D.G. Calkins, and A.J. Winship. 2007. Diets of Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in Southeast Alaska, 1993 to 1999. Fishery Bulletin 105:234-248.

Trites, A.W. and D.G. Calkins. 2008. Diets of mature male and female Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) differ and cannot be used as proxies for each other. Aquatic Mammals 34(1) 25-34.

White Paper:

Hastings, Kelly. 2010. White paper on Eastern Steller sea lion Distinct Population Segment vital rates estimations. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Marine Mammal Program.

Scientific Conference Abstracts:

***Conference*: The National Marine Animal Health & Stranding Network Conference, April 5-9, 2010 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.**

- **Lose the loop: Entanglements of Steller sea lions, *Eumetopias jubatus*, in marine debris.** Raum-Suryan, K.L. and L.A. Jemison.
- **Social media: All a "twitter" over outreach and educational solutions to entanglements in marine debris.** Raum-Suryan, K.L., L.A. Jemison, K. Savage, M. Williams, J. Guerrero, and P. Murphy.

***Conference*: The Alaska Marine Science Symposium, January 18-22, 2010 in Anchorage, Alaska.**

- **Intestinal Hookworm (*Uncinaria sp.)* Burdens and Egg Shedding in Declining and Increasing Stocks of Steller Sea Lions in Alaska.** Beckmen, K.B., K.A. Burek, L. Hughes, and T.S. Gelatt.
- **Inter-stock Movement Patterns of Steller Sea Lions in Alaska.** Jemison, L.A. and G.W. Pendleton.
- **Plasma haptoglobin concentrations vary by age and region of capture in free-ranging Steller sea lions in Alaska.** Rea, L.D., J.M. Castellini, and A.R. Banks.

***Conference*: The Society of Marine Mammology 18th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, October 12-16, 2009 in Quebec, QC, Canada.**

- **Mercury and selenium levels in Steller sea lion pups in Alaska.** Castellini, J.M., K.B. Beckmen, L.D. Rea, and T.M. O'Hara.
- **Lose the loop: Entanglements of Steller sea lions, *Eumetopias jubatus*, in marine debris.** Raum-Suryan, K.L., L.A. Jemison, and K.W. Pitcher.
- **Plasma haptoglobin concentrations vary by region of capture in free-ranging Steller sea lions, but not by age.** Rea, L.D, J.M. Castellini, and A.R. Banks.

***Conference*: The 84th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists, Crowne Plaza, August 14-17, 2009 in Knoxville, Tennessee.**

- **Delimiting Hookworm Species Parasitizing Pinniped Hosts Using Gene Trees: Phylogenetic Evidence for Host-Sharing and Switching.** Nadler, S.A., K.B. Beckmen, C. Bell, B. Berón-Vera, A. Castinel, K.A. Burek Huntington, E.T. Lyons, D. Morgades, R. Norman, C. Pagan, and T.R. Spraker.

***Conference*: 2009 Alaska Marine Science Symposium, January 19-23, 2009 in Anchorage, Alaska.**

- **Mercury Levels in Steller Sea Lion Pups in Alaska.** Castellini, J. M., K. B. Beckmen, L. D. Rea, and T. M. O'Hara.
- **Marine Debris Entanglements of Eastern Population Steller Sea Lions.** Raum-Suryan, K.L. and L.A. Jemison.

- **Percent total body lipid content increases in Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) pups during the first year of life in a similar pattern to other otariid species.** Rea, L. D., K. W. Pitcher, S. D. Farley, J. P Richmond, and W. S. Dunlap-Harding.
- **Investigating stock differences in nutritional metabolites of young Steller sea lion pups in Southeast Alaska, western Alaska and Russia.** Rivera, P. M., L. D. Rea, B. S. Fadely, and V. Burkanov.

***Conference*: 7th Comparative Nutrition Society Symposium, August 8-13, 2008 in Liscomb Mills, Nova Scotia, Canada.**

- **A novel approach to monitoring changes in the diet of lactating mothers through isotopic analysis of young Steller sea lion vibrissae.** Rea, L.D., S.D. Farley, C.A. Stricker, V.K. Stegall, and C.A.B. Eischens.

***Conference*: Alaska Marine Science Symposium, January 20-23, 2008 in Anchorage, AK.**

- **Organochlorine, pesticides and polybrominated diphenyl ether contaminant concentrations in multiple tissue matrices of live Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in Alaska.** Beckmen, K.B., K.A. Burek, K.W. Pitcher, G.M. Ylitalo, and B.S. Fadely.
- **Estimating capture and handling mortality risk to endangered juvenile Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*).** Fadely, B.S.,Sterling, J.T., Fritz, L., Lander, M., Rehberg, M.J., Johnson, D., Rea, L.D., and T.S. Gelatt.
- **Regional variation in Steller sea lion vital rates in Alaska.** Hastings, K.K., T.S. Gelatt, L.A. Jemison, K.W. Pitcher, J. Laake, L.D. Rea, and G.W. Pendleton.
- **Estimating tag loss rates for Alaskan Steller sea lions.** King, J.C., K.K. Hastings, and T.S. Gelatt.
- **Health assessment of Steller sea lions.** Lieske, C., K.B. Beckmen, K.A. Burek, and L.D. Rea.
- **Investigating regional differences in nutritional metabolites of young Steller sea lions in Alaska.** Rivera, P.M, L.D. Rea, J.P. Richmond, and V.K. Stegall.

***Conference*: 17th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, November 29 – December 3, 2007 in Cape Town, South Africa.**

- **Organochlorine, pesticides and polybrominated diphenyl ether contaminant concentrations in multiple tissue matrices of live Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in Alaska.** Beckmen, K.B., K.A. Burek, K.W. Pitcher, G.M. Ylitalo, and B.S. Fadely.
- **Health Assessment of Steller Sea Lions in Alaska, USA.** Lieske, C., K.B. Beckmen, K.A. Burek, and L.D. Rea.
- **Should I stay or should I go? Dispersal, colonization and mate choice in Steller sea lions.** O'Corry-Crowe, G., C. Bonin, T.S. Gelatt, K.W. Pitcher, and B. Taylor.

***Conference*: 13th Annual Conference for The Wildlife Society, September 23-27, 2006 in Anchorage, Alaska.**

- **Survival of juvenile Steller sea lions in Southeast Alaska: effects of birth rookery, sex, age and year.** Hastings, K.K., T.S. Gelatt, K.W. Pitcher, L.A. Jemison, J.C. King, K.L. Raum-Suryan, G.W. Pendleton, and L.D. Rea.
- **Mark-resight estimates of age-specific weaning probabilities for juvenile Steller sea lions.** Pendleton, G.W., K.W. Pitcher, and L.A. Jemison.

Subsistence Division

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division has produced numerous technical reports pertaining to Steller sea lions since 1995. Electronic copies of the complete reports in the following bibliography of the reports are available on the multi-divisional searchable database at http://www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us/pubs/

Technical Reports:

Robert J. Wolfe; James A. Fall; Monica Riedel. 2009. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2008. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 347.

Robert J. Wolfe, James A. Fall, and Monica Riedel. 2009. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2007. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 345.

Robert J. Wolfe, James A. Fall, and Monica Riedel. 2008. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2006. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 339.

Michael F. Turek, Sverre Pedersen, Nancy Ratner, and Marianne G. See. 2008. Steller sea lions Eumetopias jubatus: direct mortality by humans. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 338.

Robert J. Wolfe, James A. Fall, and Ronald T. Stanek. 2006. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2005. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 319.

Robert J. Wolfe, James A. Fall, and Ronald T. Stanek. 2005. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2004. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 303.

Robert J. Wolfe, James A. Fall, and Ronald T. Stanek. 2004. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2003. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 291.

Robert J. Wolfe, James A. Fall, Ronald T. Stanek. 2003. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2002. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 277.

Robert J. Wolfe, James A. Fall, and Ronald T. Stanek. 2002. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2001. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 273.

Robert J. Wolfe. 2001. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2000. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 266.

Michael Coffing, Cheryl L. Scott, and Charles J. Utermohle. 1999. The subsistence harvest of seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in three communities of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska, 1998-99. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 257.

Michael Coffing, Cheryl L. Scott, and Charles J. Utermohle. 1998. The subsistence harvest of seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in three communities of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska, 1997-98. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 255.

Robert J. Wolfe and Lisa B. Hutchinson-Scarbrough. 1999. The subsistence harvest of harbor seal and sea lion by Alaska Natives in 1998. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 250

Terry L. Haynes and Robert J. Wolfe, editors. 1999. Ecology, harvest, and use of harbor seals and sea lions: interview materials from Alaska Native hunters. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 249.

Robert J. Wolfe and Craig Mishler. 1998. The subsistence harvest of harbor seal and sea lion by Alaska Natives in 1997. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 246.

Susan Georgette, Michael Coffing, Cheryl Scott, and Charles Utermohle. 1998. The subsistence harvest of seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in the Norton Sound–Bering Strait Region, Alaska, 1996-97. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 242.

Robert J. Wolfe and Craig Mishler. 1997. The subsistence harvest of harbor seal and sea lion by Alaska Natives in 1996. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 241.

Robert J. Wolfe and Craig Mishler. 1995. The subsistence harvest of harbor seal and sea lion by Alaska Natives in 1995. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 238.

Terry L. Haynes and Craig Mishler. 1991. The subsistence harvest and use of Steller sea lions in Alaska. ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 198.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources:

ADNR Area Plans

The ADNR Area Plans determine how ADNR will manage state uplands, shorelands, tidelands, and submerged lands within the planning boundary. There are four ADNR Area Plans that were adopted after 1995 and include protections for the Eastern DPS of the Steller sea lion. These are:

1. Central/Southern SE Area Plan (2000)
   http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/cs_southeast/index.cfm

2. Northern Southeast Area Plan (2002)
   http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/nseap/

3. Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment (2008)
   http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/wales/amend/index.cfm

4. Yakataga Area Plan Amendment (2004)
   http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/yakataga/index.cfm

Each Area Plan discusses threatened and endangered species and sensitive habitats. For example, see the following sections from the Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan:

H. Threatened and Endangered Species. All land use activities will be conducted consistent with state and federal Endangered Species Acts to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of threatened or endangered species of animals or plants; or to provide for their continued use of an area and to avoid modification or destruction of their habitat. Specific mitigation recommendations should be identified through interagency consultation for any land use activity that potentially affects threatened or endangered species. In Alaska, eight species are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or Alaska Department of Fish and Game as threatened (T) or endangered (E) in accordance with the state and federal Endangered Species Acts, as amended. However, only two of the eight species, the arctic peregrine falcon and the humpback whale, are found within the planning area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reviewed petitions to list the Queen Charlotte goshawk as endangered and the Alexander Archipelago wolf as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Neither listing was found to be warranted at the time of the review, but both remain USFWS species of concern.

Species	Status
Northern right whale (*Eubalena glacialis*)	E
American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)	E
Aleutian Canada goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*)	T
Steller sea lion (*Eunetopias jubatas*)	T

Short-tailed albatross (*Diomedea alabatrus*)	E
Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)	E
Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)	E
Gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*)	E

The Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service should be consulted on questions that involve endangered species.

Ha – Habitat. This designation applies to areas of varied size for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life-history stage where alteration of the habitat or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of a species. This land will remain in state ownership except for areas where a tidelands conveyance to a municipality is allowed under AS 38.05. 825. This designation applies to uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands.

Please see chapter 3 below for management regions identified in the plan.
http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/cs_southeast/pdf/adoptchap3.pdf

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation:

Water Quality Management

The Water Division regulates water quality for the State of Alaska through water quality and wastewater standards found in the Alaska Administrative Code at 18 AAC 70, 18 AAC 72 and 18 AAC 83. These regulations provide specificity for the State of Alaska's implementation of the federal Clean Water Act. The state's water quality standards and wastewater regulations are based on the general prohibition principle, such that no person may cause or contribute to a violation of the water quality standards in state waters and discharges to state waters must be authorized by a permit. These water quality standards apply to both marine and fresh waters and protect water quality for a wide variety of uses, including growth and propagation of aquatic life, which includes marine mammals and their prey.

For waters that are of naturally high quality, the water quality standards include an antidegradation provision that prohibits any degradation of water quality unless certain conditions are met and even then all uses still have to be protected. The Division's Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program regulates stormwater pollution of water bodies through review and approval of construction plans and stormwater pollution prevention plans from industrial sites. Alaska's water quality standards can also apply to waters of the outer continental shelf adjacent to Alaska by virtue of the Alaska Coastal Management Program review of outer continental shelf oil and gas activities through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement.

Seafood processing discharges

Seafood processing discharges are permitted through the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Offshore Seafood Processors in Alaska. This permit covers discharges in federal waters off the coast of Alaska. Some coastal seafood processing facilities are covered under individual NPDES permits. In addition, ADEC's Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) recently received permitting authority for seafood discharges in state waters and will be phasing in state permits over time.

Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

The federal Clean Water Act mandates that each state develop a program to monitor and report on the quality of it surface and groundwaters and prepare a report describing the status of its water quality. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires that states list any waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards. Because of Alaska's size, sparse population, and its remote character, the vast majority of Alaska's water resources are in pristine condition. More than 99.9% of Alaska's waters are considered unimpaired. In specific localized parts of Alaska, surface water quality has been impaired. Historically, these waters are predominantly impaired from sediment, turbidity, and fecal coliform bacteria contamination from urban and stormwater runoff. Petroleum products, such as oil spills or fuel leaks are also a source of impairment.

Detailed information on specific water considered impaired can be found in *Alaska's Final 2010 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, July 15, 2010*, which is available on the Water Quality Standards, Assessment and Restoration Program's web site. Further data on the condition of water quality, sediments and biology of Alaska's coastal waters is also available from the Alaska Monitoring and Assessment Program, which has done statistically-based regional surveys of the Aleutian Islands, Southcentral Alaska and Southeast Alaska coastal waters.

Oil Spill Prevention and Response

The DEC Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) is responsible for protecting Alaska's land, waters and air from oil and hazardous substances spills. SPAR regulates review and approval of spill prevention and response plans for oil terminals, pipelines, tank vessels, barges, refineries, oil exploration facilities and oil production facilities. SPAR ensures response preparedness through the review and approval of oil discharge contingency plans, inspections, oil spill response exercises, oil spill response drills. Oil Spill contingency plans are required under Alaska Statute AS 46.04.030 and Alaska Administrative Code regulations at 18 AAC 75. Oil Spill Proof of Financial Responsibility is required under Alaska Statute AS 46.04.030. The State of Alaska requires oil spill contingency plans for the following facilities:

- Offshore oil and gas exploration facilities
- Onshore oil and gas exploration facilities
- Crude oil transmission pipelines
- Oil flow lines and gathering lines
- Noncrude oil terminals (over 10,000 bbls)

The DEC Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) Division's mission is to prevent, respond and ensure the cleanup of unauthorized discharges of oil and hazardous substances. The

Industry Preparedness Program (IPP) requires regulated facilities and vessels to develop state-approved oil spill response and contingency plans, to establish a facility-wide spill prevention program and to ensure that personnel, equipment and financial resources are available to respond to spills. In the event of a spill, the Prevention and Emergency Response Program (PERP) serves as the State's emergency responders to oil and hazardous substance spills and ensures that cleanup measures are implemented as soon as possible.

Detailed information on historical oil spills is available in the department's latest report, *DEC 10-Year Statewide Summary: Oil and Hazardous Substances Spill Data*, and the *Summary of Oil and Hazardous Substances Spills by Subarea*, both of which are available on the program's web site.

Additional Information

Alaska's Final 2010 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, July 15, 2010 available at:
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wqsar/Docs/2010_Integrated_Report_Final_20100715_corrected_july_19.pdf

DEC Wastewater Permits Database, available at:
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/ias/permitsearch/default.aspx

DEC (2007) *DEC 10-Year Statewide Summary: Oil and Hazardous Substances Spill Data* (July 1, 1995 – June 30, 2007) available at:
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/subreports.htm

DEC (2007) *Summary of Oil and Hazardous Substance Spills by Subarea (July 1, 1995 – June 30, 2005)*
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/docs/10year_rpt/10Yr_Subareas_FINAL.pdf