



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

August 6, 2021

Agenda item:

Steller sea lion Periodic Status Review – Briefing, Public Hearing, and Decision.

Presenter(s):

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, Diversity Division, Wildlife Program
Jessica Stocking, Wildlife Biologist, Diversity Division, Wildlife Program.

Background summary:

Department staff members will brief the Commission on the Periodic Status Review compiled for the Steller sea lion in accordance with WAC 220-610-110. This document is the first follow-up status review issued by the Department after a species' delisting and is intended to provide a final status update. The document includes information and comments provided by peer scientists and the public.

Staff recommendation:

Maintain delisted status for the Steller sea lion.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

No policy impacts beyond status quo. The species is already delisted and managed and prioritized appropriately as an unlisted species.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

No fiscal impacts beyond status quo.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

In February 2020, the agency sent out a press release and posted a request on our website to solicit information from the public to be included in the coming Periodic Status Reviews and Status Reports. In accordance with WAC regulations, individuals and organizations had one year to contribute information for the reviews. Department staff included this information as applicable in the status review documents. The documents were then reviewed by Department staff and external species experts before 90-day public comment periods on the document and our findings. There were 14 responses to the 90-day public comment period on the Periodic Status Review: one clearly supports our recommendation to maintain the delisted status for the species; two indirectly indicated support for the current delisted status; eleven did not directly address this listing decision/document.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Request a decision on the recommended no status change.

Draft motion language:

I move that the Steller sea lion maintain its current status as an unlisted species in Washington as recommended by Department staff.

Post decision communications plan:

Since the species has already been delisted and we are recommended that it remain so, our current management of the species will not change. We will share information with the public affairs team for any necessary news release as well as update the website with the final Periodic Status Review for the species.