



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number: REP 14-051

Agenda Date 4/7/2014

Agenda Number: B6

Eric Olson, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Protected Species Report

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review Protected Species report, take action as necessary

BACKGROUND

Humpback Whales

On February 26, 2014 the State of Alaska submitted a petition to the Secretary of Commerce through the National Marine Fisheries Service to classify the Central North Pacific stock of humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) as a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and to delist the DPS under the U.S. ESA. The petition states that the Central North Pacific stock meets the designations necessary to declare it a DPS, and the stock has recovered to the point that it is no longer threatened with extinction, and that protection under the ESA is no longer required. The petition is attached as item B6-a. A 90 day finding on this petition would be expected in May, 2014.

This petition follows a petition from the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition to classify the entire North Pacific population of humpback whales as a DPS and to delist the entire North Pacific population. NMFS has initiated a status review of the North Pacific population to determine whether the petitioned action is warranted.

Tufted Puffin

On February 12, 2014 the Natural Resources Defense Council submitted a petition to the Secretary of Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the U.S. contiguous DPS of the tufted puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*) as endangered or threatened under the U.S. ESA, and establish critical habitat for the U.S. contiguous DPS of tufted puffin. The petition states that the contiguous US DPS of the tufted puffin is severely depleted and faces significant and continuous threats, including declines in prey base, climate change, fisheries bycatch, and oil pollution. The petition is attached as item B6-b. A 90 day finding on this petition would be expected in May, 2014.