Instructions for EPA Form 1900-68

When a PO or CO identifies costs in a voucher that are to be suspended or disallowed, the Form 1900-68 is used to identify those costs, the associated reasons and to communicate the action to all necessary parties. Examples of costs that a PO might suspend without CO involvement are: math errors, incorrect rates, and a lack of available funding. Examples of costs that CO involvement would be necessary to suspend or disallow costs include lack of authorization to incur costs, unnecessary costs incurred, and excessive costs. Section A, Cost Suspension, may be filled out by either the CO or PO. The PO and/or CO must fill out the Form 1900-68 explaining the suspended amount, sign and date the Form and send it to the contractor. The contractor must fill out the acknowledgement of receipt on the applicable area on Form 1900-68 and return a copy of it to either the PO or CO who made the suspension. A copy of the Form 1900-68 would go to RTP Finance with the Approval Forms package. Copies of the Form 1900-68 would be filed by PO and/or CO and a copy sent to the applicable Cost Advisory Office for use in interim and final audits.

The Form 1900-68 states that the contractor has 60 days to respond to the suspension, or the costs will be considered disallowed and those costs should be transferred to an unallowable account in the contractor's accounting records. If the contractor wishes to respond to the suspension, it must as a minimum furnish documentation specified on the Form 1900-68 for the costs to be considered allowable. The contractor will then resubmit this documentation to the PO and CO for review. Either the CO or PO who originally suspended the costs will consider the documentation and, if it is adequate, they will fill out a revised Form 1900-68 Block B. (Removal of Suspension) for some or all of the costs suspended. Copies of this revised Form 1900-68 would go to the contractor, CO and PO, RTP, FMC, and Cost Advisory Office.

The contractor may rebill suspended costs after receiving the Removal of Suspension using a separate invoice and attach the Form 1900–68 Removal of Suspension notice to the invoice. The contractor must then resubmit this bill for payment in accordance with contract invoicing requirements.

If the contractor prepares supporting documentation for suspended costs that the PO deems unacceptable, the PO will notify the CO of this and ask for a final

determination on the allowability of the costs. If the CO agrees with the PO, a revised Form 1900-68 with Block C (Disallowance of Costs) should be completed and sent to the contractor instructing the contractor to eliminate such costs on future invoices and to move such costs to unallowable accounts on their accounting records. The contractor must acknowledge receipt of the disallowance notice by signing and returning the notice to the CO. Where the CO processed the suspension, the CO will inform the PO and disallow the cost. Copies of the revised Form 1900-68 should be sent to RTP Finance, the contract file, and the applicable Cost Advisory Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 222 and 227

[Docket No. 950919232-5232-01; I.D. 041995B]

RIN 0648-XX27

Threatened Fish and Wildlife; Change in Listing Status of Steller Sea Lions Under the Endangered Species Act

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS is proposing to reclassify the Steller sea lion, Eumetopias jubatus. This species currently is listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) as threatened throughout its range, which extends from California and associated waters to Alaska, including the Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands, and then into the Bering Sea and North Pacific and into Russian waters and territory.

Based on biological information collected since the species was listed as threatened in 1990, NMFS now proposes to re-classify Steller sea lions as two distinct population segments under the ESA. NMFS proposes to classify the Steller sea lion population segment west of 144° W. long. (a line near Cape Suckling, AK) as endangered, and to maintain the ESA threatened listing for the remainder of the U.S. population. NMFS is requesting public comments on this proposed action.

DATES: Comments and information must be received by January 2, 1996. ADDRESSES: Comments and information should be addressed to Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources (F/PR), NMFS, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of the Steller sea lion status review document, the Steller Sea Lion Recovery Team (Recovery Team) meeting summary and recommendations regarding reclassification, and a Population Viability Analyses of Steller sea lions in Alaska may be obtained from Susan Mello, Protected Resources Management Division, Alaska Regional Office, NMFS, P.O.Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Mello, 907-586-7235 or Michael

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Payne, F/PR, NMFS, 301-713-2322.

I. Background

NMFS determined that the Steller sea lion was a threatened species under the ESA (55 FR 49294, November 26, 1990; see also, 55 FR 50005, December 4, 1990). The species was listed throughout its range because of a precipitous decline in abundance. This decline was concentrated primarily in areas near the Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands.

The final rule imposed protective regulations to reduce direct causes of Steller sea lion mortality, to restrict opportunities for intentional and unintentional harassment of Steller sea lions, and to minimize disturbance and interference with Steller sea lion behavior including disruption of foraging behavior, especially at pupping and breeding sites.

and breeding sites.
As a result of ESA section 7 consultations on the effects of the North Pacific federally-managed groundfish fisheries, NMFS implemented additional protective measures in 1991. 1992, and 1993 to reduce the effects of certain commercial groundfish fisheries on Steller sea lion foraging (see 56 FR 28112, June 19, 1991; 57 FR 2683, January 23, 1992; and 58 FR 13561, March 12, 1993; current protections are codified at 50 CFR 672.24(e) and 675.24(f) (1994)). NMFS has also published a Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan) (58 FR 3008, January 7, 1993), and has designated critical habitat for the species (58 FR 45269, August 27, 1993). NMFS and other agencies are implementing the Recovery Plan.

Since 1990, NMFS and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) have conducted monitoring surveys that indicate that the decline of Steller sea