

Washington State, and the Florida and Antillean stocks of West Indian manatees from the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico, respectively, are available from address (2) above.

Comments on the draft revised stock assessment reports for Alaska species should be sent to Supervisor, Office of Marine Mammals Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Horwath in the FWS's Division of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance, Arlington, Virginia at (703) 358-1718. For information specifically about sea otter, polar bears, and Pacific walrus in Alaska, contact David McGillivray at (907) 786-3800 or FAX: (907) 786-3816.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 117 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407) requires the FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to

prepare stock assessment reports for each marine mammal stock that occurs in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States. In late 1995, the FWS issued final stock assessment reports for marine mammals in Alaska as required, and announced their completion and public availability in a **Federal Register** notice on October 4, 1995 (60 FR 52008). These reports contained information regarding the distribution and abundance of the stocks, population growth rates and trends, estimates of human-caused mortality from all sources, descriptions of the fisheries with which the stocks interact, and the status of each stock.

Section 117 of the MMPA also requires the FWS and the NMFS, consistent with any new information that indicates that the status of a stock has changed or can be more accurately determined, to revise these reports annually for strategic stocks of marine

mammals and every three years for stocks determined to be none-strategic. In accordance with these statutory provisions, the FWS has reviewed all of the final stock assessment reports and determined that it would be appropriate at this time to revise the reports for the Alaska species in order to incorporate new information that was not available in 1995. Although the FWS has decided to revise these reports based on additional information, the status of the stocks has not changed.

Table 1 in this notice summarizes the draft revised stock assessment reports. The table lists the stocks, their geographic range, regional designation, estimated abundance (N_{EST}), minimum abundance estimate (N_{MIN}), Potential Biological Removal level (PBR), maximum theoretical growth rate (R_{MAX}), recovery factor (F_R), annual estimated average human-caused mortality, and the status of the stock.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF DRAFT STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR SEA OTTER, POLAR BEAR, AND PACIFIC WALRUS IN ALASKA

Species	Stock	N_{EST}	N_{MIN}	R_{MAX}	F_R	PBR	Mortality causes (5 yr average)			Stock status
							Subsistence	Fishery	Other	
Sea otter	Southeast Alaska	8,807	8,709	0.20	1.00	871	376	0	Unk	Non-strategic.
Sea otter	Southcentral Alaska	22,867	20,948	0.20	1.00	2,095	312	<1	Unk	Non-strategic.
Sea otter	Southwest Alaska	68,212	65,761	0.20	0.86	5,659	99	<2	Unk	Non-strategic.
Polar bear	Alaska Chukchi/Bering Seas.	(²)	(²)	(¹)	0.50	Unk	45	0	<10	Non-strategic.
Polar bear	Alaska Southern Beaufort Sea.	1,801	1,599	0.06	1.00	72	55	0	<1	Non-strategic.
Pacific Walrus	Alaska	201,039	188,316	0.08	1.00	7,533	4,869	17	4	Non-strategic.

¹ Probably similar to Alaska Southern Beaufort Sea Stock.
² Not available.

Dated: February 24, 1998.

Robyn Thorson,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-98-1020-24-1 A]

Sierra Front/Northwest Great Basin Resource Advisory Council; Meeting Locations and Times

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Resource Advisory Council meeting locations and times.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of

Land Management (BLM) Council meetings will be held as indicated below. The agenda includes: options on Black Rock Desert; Winnemucca Land Use Plan amendment options; Walker River water rights; meeting structure and schedule for 1998; and public comment period.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have a time allocated for public comments. The public comment period for the council meeting is listed below. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meeting or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Joan Sweetland at the Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701, telephone (702) 885-6000.

DATE, TIME: The council will meet on Thursday, April 2, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, April 3, 1998,

from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89502-7147, in the first floor conference room. This is the new Nevada State Office. If due to unforeseeable problems this site is not available, the alternate site of the meeting will be the Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701. The dates and times will remain the same. The public comment period will be Friday, April 3, 1998 at 1:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joan Sweetland, Public Affairs Specialist, Carson City Field Office, telephone (702) 885-6000.

Dated: February 20, 1998.

Karl L. Kipping,

Associate District Manager.

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