

Pribilof Islands Collaborative
Northern fur seal workgroup
June 21, 2004 - DRAFT meeting summary

Attendees: Phil Zavadil, Aquilina Lestenkof, Heather McCarty, Char Kirkwood, Larry Cotter, Evie Witten

The fur seal workgroup met for the first time on June 21 to discuss the Draft Conservation Plan for the Northern Fur Seal:

- Phil noted that the section entitled “implementation of conservation actions” is the most important for the workgroup to focus on.
- Phil explained that the draft plan is incomplete – missing sections on fisheries, climate change, and ecological relationships between fur seals, non-commercial forage fish species, and the commercial fisheries.
- Phil said the tribes are hoping NMFS and NMML will complete these sections, but the plan for completion is not clear.
- Evie and Heather noted that in conversations with NMFS staff in recent weeks NMFS indicated they would complete a preliminary review of the draft plan by June 18. Phil and Debbie said they have not heard from NMFS.
- Phil and Debbie explained they think the workgroup should hold off on reviewing the draft until after NMFS has prepared their comments and met with the Tribes to deliver those comments under terms of the co-management agreement
- The workgroup agreed to draft a letter to NMFS explaining the Tribes’ request to hold off on review of the plan and inquiring about NMFS timeline for delivering prepared comments to the tribes.
- Heather and Evie questioned if there are other actions or issues the fur seal workgroup can take or address in the mean time. All agreed that at a minimum the workgroup could recommend to the Collaborative at the August meeting that the Collaborative lobby for additional funding for fur seal research. Workgroup attendees agreed to communicate via email if other ideas come up.
- Phil will keep in touch with workgroup members regarding a next meeting date.