

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: August 17, 2018 – Conference Call

Agenda item: Periodic Status Reviews: Sea Otter – **Decision**

Presenter(s): Hannah Anderson, Listing and Recovery Section Manager, Diversity Division, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Department staff members will briefly review for the Commission the Periodic Status Review (PSR) compiled for the sea otter in accordance with WAC 220-610-110. This PSR outlines the current status of the species and includes information and comments provided by peer scientists and the public.

Staff recommendation:

Reclassify the Sea Otter from endangered to threatened status in Washington.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Protect and conserve Washington's native wildlife.
 - Continue recovery actions for these state-listed species.
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Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

No fiscal impacts beyond the status quo.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

In February 2015, 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 PSR. In accordance with WAC regulations, individuals and organizations had one year to contribute information for the reviews. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff included this information, as applicable, in the status review document. The document was then reviewed by WDFW staff and external species experts before a 90-day public comment period began on the document and our findings. There were two additional public comment opportunities through the CR-102 filing and the SEPA processes. All comments were collated, responded to, and included in the final PSR.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Reclassify the Sea Otter to threatened status.

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to reclassify the Sea Otter to threatened status as recommended by department staff.

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed.

Post decision communications plan:

News Release
WDFW Website
