



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 19, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Region, invites you to a meeting to initiate public discussion and solicit input on the development of a conservation plan for the AT1 group of killer whales in Prince William Sound. The meeting will be open to the public and will be held on November 10, 2004 at the Anchorage Federal Bldg, 222 W 7th Ave, Anchorage, Alaska from 9 a.m. to noon in the First Floor Executive Dining Conference Room.

The AT1 group of killer whales was designated as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) on June 3, 2004. This designation was based on the results of a status review conducted by NOAA Fisheries that concluded that this group of killer whales is a population stock that is below its optimum sustainable population. NOAA Fisheries is considering the development of a conservation plan to assist with the recovery of this population of marine mammals and seeks to solicit public input at this meeting.

Please join us for a discussion of this topic. All interested parties are invited to attend and participate. We want to ensure that a broad suite of ideas, suggestions, and perspectives are given due consideration in the development of a plan, as well as in determining the possible effectiveness of such a plan. NMFS will provide background on this issue and will introduce the conservation plan planning process and time frames for development of the plan, including opportunities for additional public input into the process. There will be an open forum for discussion of related issues at this meeting, where you are invited to share your ideas and suggestions. A meeting agenda and draft outline of a possible plan are attached. Copies of the stock's status review will be available at the meeting, or may be requested through this office at (907) 586-7236.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kaja Brix".

Kaja Brix
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources



NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office and Fisheries Science Center
AT1 Killer Whale Conservation Strategy
Introductory Public Meeting

Executive Dining Conference Rm – first floor
Anchorage Federal Bldg
222 West 7th Ave

November 10, 2004
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Draft Agenda

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| 9:00 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 9:15 | Description of Conservation Plan Process
Status Review Summary |
| 9:45 | Open Forum Discussion on Key Issues/ Conservation Plan Elements |
| 12:15 | Closing remarks |

Elements of DRAFT AT1 Killer Whale Conservation Plan

Introduction

1. Purpose of the Plan
2. AT1 Killer Whale
 - A. Species Description
 - B. Biology and Life History
 - Distribution and Movements
 - Habitat Use and Requirements
 - Reproduction
 - Natural Mortality
 - Feeding and Energetics
 - C. Population Status
 - Abundance and Trends
 - Historic Records and Estimated Carrying Capacity
 - Depletion Status and Recovery Goals
 - D. Data Gaps and Information Needs
3. Known and Possible Factors Influencing the Population
 - A. Natural Factors
 - B. Human-induced Factors
4. Conservation Strategy
 - A. Conservation Management Actions and Recommendations
 - B. Outreach and Education
 - C. Enforcement
5. Monitoring Strategy
6. Research Plan
7. Implementation Plan and Timeline
8. Summary and Conclusions