

## Draft Terms of Reference

Zonal Peer Review Meeting (by Tele/videoconference)

### Sea Otter Population Assessment in British Columbia, Canada

November 22 or 23, 2005  
12:00-16:00 (Eastern Time)

Chairperson: Patrice Simon

#### Background

Between 2001 and 2004, multiple boat and helicopter sea otter surveys were conducted off British Columbia's coastline. The goals of these surveys were to compute a population estimate of the sea otter population in British Columbia and to determine the trend and growth rate of this population.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) last reviewed sea otter in May 2000 (based on the status report of 1997). Sea otter COSEWIC status is threatened.

A COSEWIC status report is being prepared for COSEWIC. This report is due to COSEWIC in April 2006. In order to produce this report, the results of the sea otter assessment in British Columbia have to be available by January 15, 2006.

#### Meeting objectives

One working paper will be submitted for review:

##### Sea Otter Population Assessment in British Columbia, Canada

An earlier draft of this document was reviewed at the 2004 annual peer review meeting of NMMPRC ([DFO, 2004, Proceedings of the National Marine Mammal Peer Review Committee; 20 23 April 2004. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec Proceed. Ser. 2004/009](#)). Comments were provided to improve the survey procedures and analyses. The new document submitted will have considered the comments provided and present the revised results of the population assessment of sea otter in British Columbia.

In particular, the following aspects will be reviewed:

1. How previous comments were addressed.
2. Methodology used to census the population.
3. Interpretation of the results of the population estimate.
4. Interpretation of the results of population growth rate analysis.

## **Working papers**

The working paper submitted for review is as follows:

### Sea Otter Population Assessment in British Columbia, Canada

This document will be available to the peer review group by November 7<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

## **Output of the meeting**

Following the meeting, the draft proceedings and other resulting documents will be distributed to the participants for review.

Output of the meeting will be documented via standard CSAS publications (Proceedings of the meeting and one Research Document). The Research Document will describe the survey procedure, the results, interpretations and conclusions of the sea otter population assessment in British Columbia. The assumptions and uncertainties associated with the survey results will be clearly identified.

## **Background Documents**

The following list of background documents is available to the participants:

Table describing how the authors addressed comments received in previous reviews.

DFO, 2004, Proceedings of the National Marine Mammal Peer Review Committee; 20-23 April 2004. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec Proceed. Ser. 2004/009.

[http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas/Csas/proceedings/2004/PRO2004\\_009\\_B.pdf](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas/Csas/proceedings/2004/PRO2004_009_B.pdf)