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January 29, 2008

TO: Council Members

FROM: Steve Crow

RE: Briefing on Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking Project

Larry Cassidy will introduce Jim Bolger, Executive Director of POST, who will give the Council an update on the current POST activities.

POST was created to monitor the movement and estimated survival of marine animals through an array of listening stations set along the west coast of North America. Little is known about key aspects of the biology of threatened and commercially valued species upon which fisheries assessments are critically dependent. POST results will give much-needed information about their behavior and provide unprecedented insight into the mysteries of migration.

The POST project uses newly developed acoustic transmitters to track movement of individual animals. Tags implanted in the animals' abdomens send out unique signals, which are picked up by receivers running in lines across the continental shelf. Most species and many life history stages can be studied using POST.

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