

US Fish and Wildlife Service Comments – Pebble Project Preliminary Draft EIS, Section 3.25 – Threatened and Endangered Species

Agency	Comment No.	Section, Paragraph, and Page #	Cooperating Agency Comment (and Purpose of Comment)	Proposed Resolution (Additions or Deletion of Text)	Response
USFWS	1		Currently, this chapter uses a mixture of Federal Register notices (i.e., humpback whale, fin whale), and Service and NMFS documents cited as “USFWS (Year)” or “NMFS (Year)” (i.e., Cook Inlet beluga, Steller sea lion, Northern sea otter, Steller’s eider) to discuss listing of species under the Endangered Species Act. Some of the references seem incongruous. For example, discussion of the Northern sea otter uses a NMFS reference (NMFS 2005) for a Service managed species, and discussion of the Steller’s eider uses a 2011 document (USFWS 2011) to reference a species listed by the Service in 1997. Please review the literature cited in this chapter to ensure reference of original source material whenever possible rather than secondary references, such as reports or biological opinions.	See Response.	The literature cited section has been reviewed and original documents are now cited instead of secondary sources.
USFWS	2		We recommend citing the Service or the NMFS listing of species and critical habitat using the associated Federal Register notice published in support of listing. As an example of citing the Federal Register notice to discuss listed species, “The Service listed the Southwest Alaska Distinct Population Segment of the Northern sea otter as threatened under the Endangered Species Act on August 9, 2005 (70 FR 46366), with critical habitat designated on October 8, 2009 (74 FR 51988).”	See Response.	Documents published in the Federal Register are cited as such and the text has been updated.