

Questions/Responses – November 20, 2012

**Economic Analysis of Critical Habitat Designations for
Arctic Ringed Seals and the Beringia Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of Bearded Seals**

- 1) *To assist us in our scoping, would PSMFC please share information on the anticipated budget for the project?*

PSMFC expects to award a contract of approximately \$135,000 for this work. This figure is should include all sub-contractor costs associated with the project.

- 2) *Does NOAA anticipate that most of the proposed CHD area will be the same for the two species, or that there will be significant CHD areas unique to each of the species?*

The geographic ranges of the two species overlap substantially, so it is likely that the CH areas would be largely similar. The bearded seal's effective range extends to 500 m depth, whereas ringed seals are more broadly distributed. This difference could translate into a different northern boundary for each species.