

**Council Motion, 6/10/2013**  
**C-7 Bering Sea Canyons Motion**

Motion 1: Identify and validate where necessary areas of coral concentrations for possible management measures for the conservation and management of deep sea corals in Pribilof and Zhemchug canyons.

- Request AFSC expand upon the initial analysis to include an overlay of model results with existing data such as: visual survey data, observer data, longline survey data, multibeam sonar data and to incorporate a biodiversity index and rare species analysis.
- Task staff to initiate a discussion paper that addresses management measures to be considered for conserving areas of coral concentrations and associated fish productivity. Staff should meet with AFSC and stakeholders to discuss possibilities for collaboration in order to survey areas of coral abundance as well as to identify and develop tools for coral impact reduction and to bring a report of that meeting back to the council at the October or December meeting.
- Draft a letter to the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program (DSCRTP) requesting that further research be done to identify and characterize areas of relatively high coral abundance in the in the Bering Sea slope canyon areas and to support the process of improving the AFSC model predictions and vulnerability index using camera drops or similar techniques capable of gathering empirical data. Request that this research be used to inform longer term research priorities including: refining predictions of coral presence, acquiring information on the characteristics of coral in this area such as height and density, the role of these coral as habitat for fish, and documenting presence and degree of fishing gear effects.

Motion 2: Task staff with a discussion paper regarding the development of a Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan.