A Way Forward –
Any of Three Doors and at Least One Goal Line

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_NOAA Fisheries_

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Where is the Goal Line?

• Develop metrics to evaluate MMC and Agency performance. For 2015 for example – address:
  – Fewer than 20% of 400 domestic stocks had adequate assessments
  – Less than 50% of the funding needed to achieve mandates under MMPA and ESA was available to NMFS
  – Discretionary funding for research in the Arctic for NMFS was less than $1 million
  – NOAA Days at Sea for marine mammal surveys was 30-60% of minimum needed
“Three Doors-A Choice for the MMC”

1) More of the same
2) Lead the charge to re-ignite interest in marine mammal conservation
3) Lead the charge to ignite concern about the impact of climate change on marine mammal conservation
“Three Doors - #1”

1) More of the same

- Broadly attempt to implement strategic plan
- Work with Congress, the responsible regulatory agencies, and industry and NGOs to support unfunded needs
- Focus on Large Marine Ecosystems
- Focus on capacity building in US and internationally
2) Lead the charge to re-ignite interest in marine mammal and marine ecosystem conservation

- Focus on what the MMC can do in the next 2 years to influence the next 10
- Focus on problem identification and determining stakeholder interests
- Promote innovative solutions and partnerships among Congress, the responsible regulatory agencies, and for-profit and non-profit organizations
3) Lead the charge to ignite concern about the impact of climate change on marine mammal and marine ecosystem conservation

- Focus on the “big gorilla” in the room
- Support long term monitoring
- Help identify winners and losers; for losers – make an effort to protect refugia (e.g., polar bear)
- Encourage ecosystem process studies and modeling efforts
Thank you – it’s been an honor (albeit short)

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  – Ian Stirling
Background Slide- #1
(MMC Strategic Plan. Feb 2014)

• SO#1 – Marine mammal populations in the Arctic are maintained as viable functioning elements of their ecosystems
• SO#2 – Robust mitigation and monitoring measures are developed and implemented … to mitigate impacts of oil and gas …
• SO#3 – Marine mammal strandings are more thoroughly investigated …
• SO#4 – Anthropogenic threats are identified and reduced
• SO#5 – Understanding of human impacts is improved
Background Slide - #2
(MMC Strategic Plan. Feb 2014)- High Priority Projects

#1 – Promote research, monitoring and conservation efforts in the Arctic
#2 – Develop global priorities for research and conservation
#3 – Promote long-term monitoring
#4 – Promote development of health monitoring system for marine mammals
#5 – Improve marine mammal stock assessments
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Prevent loss of species, habitat and ecosystem function</td>
<td>Address impacts of climate change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Conserve ecosystem</td>
<td>Populations of special concern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vulnerability</td>
<td>Monitor populations and ecosystems</td>
<td>Assess status and trends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncertainty</td>
<td>Conserve stocks</td>
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<td>Institutional capacity</td>
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<td>Impacts of oil/gas development</td>
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