



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

22 January 2010

Ms. Hope Grey  
Information Collection Clearance Officer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS-222 ARLSQ  
4401 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington VA 22209

Dear Ms. Grey:

The Marine Mammal Commission has reviewed the notice regarding reporting requirements under the Endangered Species Act relative to importing or exporting fish, wildlife, and plants (74 Fed. Reg. 68277). As stated in the notice, any individual, business, or government agency importing into or exporting such products from the United States must complete and submit a declaration form to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service relies on the collected information to accurately inspect the contents of shipments, enforce any regulations that pertain to the fish, wildlife, or wildlife products contained in the shipment, and maintain records of the importation and exportation of such commodities.

In the Commission's opinion, the data obtained through this program are necessary to meet the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts poses a serious conservation risk to endangered species, including marine mammals. For that reason, the Commission considers the collection of this information an essential part of the Service's duties in carrying out its functions. Therefore, the Commission encourages the continuation of this reporting requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director