



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

28 October 2010

The Honorable Lisa Jackson  
Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Congress passed the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972 with the primary objective of maintaining the health and stability of marine ecosystems. The Act established the Marine Mammal Commission to oversee and advise federal officials regarding matters affecting the protection and conservation of marine mammals and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

In meeting its responsibilities over the years, the Commission has become familiar with a wide range of risk factors that may affect marine mammals and marine ecosystems, including those posed by oil and gas activities. To help address those factors, the Commission has always sought to give objective, science-based, and forward-looking advice.

The Commissioners, the Commission's Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, and the Commission's staff have considerable expertise that you may find helpful as you lead the Gulf Coast Restoration Task Force. For that reason, the Commission wishes to offer its assistance in your important efforts to guide restoration of the Gulf Coast. Please include us in your distribution list regarding the official actions of the task force, and please do not hesitate to contact me if the Commission can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director