



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

27 May 2010

Ms. Diana Hynek  
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer  
Department of Commerce  
14th and Constitution Ave., NW, Room 6625  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Hynek:

The Marine Mammal Commission has reviewed the *Federal Register* notice regarding reporting requirements related to the incidental take of marine mammals by specified activities other than commercial fishing (75 Fed. Reg. 27295). As stated in the notice, the National Marine Fisheries Service is required to collect certain information on proposed activities that may affect marine mammals so it can make necessary statutory determinations as to issuance of an incidental harassment authorization. Subsequently, the agency is required to collect data on the authorized parties' mitigation, monitoring, and reporting activities.

In the Commission's view, it is crucial for the agency's marine resource managers to know whether the identified activities are taking small numbers of marine mammals, to confirm that the take has negligible impact on the population, to determine the nature of the interactions, and to use that information to develop strategies for reducing levels of take. In view of the modest burden imposed on the respondents and the low annual cost to the public, the Marine Mammal Commission endorses continuation of efforts to collect this information.

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