



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

10 March 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 International Dolphin Conservation Program Act (75 Fed. Reg. 2483). As stated in the notice, the National Marine Fisheries Service is required to collect certain fisheries-related information from tuna importers and processors. Such data are necessary to (1) document the dolphin-safe status of tuna imported to the United States; (2) verify that import shipments of fish are not harvested using large-scale, high-seas driftnets; and (3) verify that imported tuna has not been harvested by an embargoed nation or one that is otherwise prohibited from exporting tuna to the United States.

In the Commission's view, the data obtained through this effort are critical in meeting the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and, more specifically, the International Dolphin Conservation Program Act. 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