

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION
4340 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY, ROOM 905
BETHESDA, MD 20814

23 March 2007

Ms. Susan Pultz
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Rm 13661
Silver Spring, MD 20910

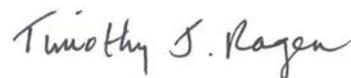
Dear Ms. Pultz:

The Marine Mammal Commission, in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the 22 January 2007 *Federal Register* notice announcing that the National Marine Fisheries Service has initiated 5-year reviews of the status of fin whales, sperm whales, and southern right whales under provisions of the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of these reviews is to determine whether the species' current listings as endangered remain appropriate. The notice requests any information developed since 1999 (i.e., the year of the last 5-year status review for these species) on the species' biology, habitat, conservation measures, status and trends of threats, and any other relevant topics. In response to that request, we have compiled the attached list of documents prepared by or for the Marine Mammal Commission that may include useful information. All of those reports have been provided to the Service in the past; however, we would be pleased to send additional copies if they are needed.

All three species occur in several ocean basins and as multiple populations. It is likely that some or many of those populations are both separate and significant, and that they therefore need to be identified and assessed individually as discrete population segments. Accordingly, the Marine Mammal Commission recommends that for each species the Service: (1) compile and review all available information on population structure and use that information to identify discrete population segments, and 2) assess the status of each of the individual populations.

I hope this information and recommendation are helpful. If there is anything further we can do to assist in this review, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Attachment

Fin whale, Sperm Whale, and Southern Right Whale-Related Reports
Prepared by or for the Marine Mammal Commission

- Long, A.K. 200. Marine Mammal Commission working bibliography on contaminants in the marine environment and effects on marine mammals (third edition) 122 pp. Available from the Marine Mammal Commission, Bethesda, MD.
- Marine Mammal Commission. 1999. Marine mammals and persistent ocean contaminants: proceedings of the Marine Mammal Commission workshop, Keystone, Colorado, 12-15 October 1998. 150 pp+vii. Available from the Marine Mammal Commission. Bethesda, MD.
- O'Shea, T.J. 1999. Environmental contaminants and marine mammals. Pp. 485-563. *In* J.E. Reynolds and S.A. Rommel (eds). *Biology of marine mammals*. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, D.C.
- Waring, G.H. 1999. Survey of federally-funded marine mammal research and studies FY74-FY98. Final report for MMC contract T-53700674. NTIS PB99-171720. National Technical Information Service. Springfield, VA. 150 pp.
- Waring, G.H. 2000. Survey of federally-funded marine mammal research and studies FY74-FY99. Final report for MMC contract T-74464724. NTIS PB2001-103492. National Technical Information Service. Springfield, VA.
- Waring, G.H. 2001. Survey of federally-funded marine mammal research and studies FY74-FY00. Final report for MMC contract T-3322455. NTIS PB2001-103492. Available from the Marine Mammal Commission. Bethesda, MD.