



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

29 January 2010

Mr. Timothy J. Van Norman  
Chief, Branch of Permits  
Division of Management Authority  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Re: Application No. PRT-837414  
(Seward Association for the Advancement  
of Marine Science, Alaska SeaLife Center)

Dear Mr. Van Norman:

The Marine Mammal Commission, in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. We offer the following recommendation.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service issue the requested authorizations, provided that the Service, in consultation with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, is satisfied that the applicant's plans and facilities for transporting and maintaining the requested animals are adequate to provide for their health and well-being.

## BACKGROUND

The Alaska SeaLife Center is requesting a renewal of its current Letter of Authorization No. LOA837414, issued under section 112 (c) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which authorizes the Center to assist the Fish and Wildlife Service in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of stranded northern sea otters and walrus. The applicant also is seeking an enhancement permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act to authorize the proposed activities with respect to the Southwest Alaska distinct population segment of northern sea otters, which is listed as threatened.

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the requested authorizations be granted, provided that the Service, in consultation with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, is satisfied that the applicant's plans and facilities for transporting and maintaining the requested animals are adequate to provide for their health and well-being.

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The Commission believes that the activities for which it has recommended approval are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and other applicable laws.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent upward stroke on the 'T'.

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director