



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

20 September 2016

Trevor R. Spradlin, Acting Chief
Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Spradlin:

The Marine Mammal Commission has reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) *Federal Register* notice (81 Fed Reg. 54019) requesting comments on the 2017 draft List of Fisheries (LOF). The Commission appreciates the opportunity to review that document, as well as NMFS's attention to detail, careful consideration of the Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports and mortality and serious injury findings, and adherence to the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The Commission finds that the proposed changes to the LOF comport with MMPA provisions and guidelines and believes that those changes should be incorporated into the final 2017 LOF.

If you or your staff has any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca J. Lent".

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.
Executive Director