



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

19 July 2011

Ms. Cheryl Blundon
Regulations and Standards Branch
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement
381 Elden Street, MS-4024
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

RE: Information Collection Request ICR 1010-0048

Dear Ms. Blundon:

The Marine Mammal Commission has reviewed the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement's *Federal Register* notice regarding information collection requirements related to Geological & Geophysical explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf (76 Fed. Reg. 38412). The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act authorizes the Department of the Interior, and by extension the Bureau, to prescribe regulations governing oil and gas operations on the Outer Continental Shelf to meet the nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with the protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on Outer Continental Shelf resources; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition.

Regulations pertaining to geological and geophysical explorations are an important means of limiting anthropogenic noise and disturbance from exploration activities that may be harmful to marine mammals and other marine life. To implement these regulations, the Bureau must review the qualifications of each applicant and ensure that proposed activities contribute to a better understanding of potential oil and gas resources while also minimizing unnecessary redundancy of surveys and undue harm to marine life. Accordingly, the Commission supports the Bureau's request that the Office of Management and Budget approve the collection of information needed to manage geological and geophysical exploration of the Outer Continental Shelf. The Commission also supports the use of electronic options for reporting and the clarification of environmental compliance requirements.

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