

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

23 November 2007

The Honorable Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor of Washington  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

The Honorable Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Governor of Oregon  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governors Gregoire, Kulongoski, and Schwarzenegger:

On 28–30 August 2007 the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals met in Vancouver, Washington, for their annual meeting. The Commission met in Vancouver to focus on a range of issues involving marine mammal conservation and management along the U.S. West Coast. During the meeting, we reviewed efforts by Washington, Oregon, and California to implement an ecosystem-based management approach for West Coast marine ecosystems, including marine mammals. The principles and procedures for applying such an approach are in the early stages of development. Nonetheless, recent reports by the U.S. Ocean Commission, the Pew Commission, and the U.S. Interagency Committee on Ocean Policy all have urged the creation of broad ecological perspectives to establish a vision for such management and a context for evaluating the potential effects of human activities within marine ecosystems.

Representatives of your states participated in our meeting and updated us on the West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health and ongoing ocean-related initiatives designed to address ecosystem management objectives. Based on the presentations and discussion at our meeting, we believe that adoption of this agreement and the collective actions you are taking place the U.S. West Coast at the forefront of national and international efforts to integrate ecosystem-based management principles into ocean management programs.

This challenge is as urgent as it is complex. Successful implementation undoubtedly will take vision, experimentation and refinement, and long-term commitment. Please accept our gratitude and congratulations to you and your staffs for your farsighted leadership in this

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difficult but essential endeavor. If the Marine Mammal Commission can be of assistance to you in any way, we sincerely hope you will not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,



Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D  
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. Brian Baird  
Ms. Kathleen Drew  
Ms. Jessica Hamilton