



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

23 April 2010

Mr. David Rostker  
OMB Desk Officer  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Rostker:

The Marine Mammal Commission has reviewed the Department of Commerce's *Federal Register* notice regarding permit and notification requirements related to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (75 Fed. Reg. 20980). The presidential proclamation establishing the monument requires that operators of vessels and members of the public obtain a permit before entering the monument. Vessels that are passing through monument waters without interruption do not need a permit but are required to notify the monument managers upon entering and leaving the monument.

These requirements are an important means of controlling potential anthropogenic impacts on the region's fragile coral reef and wildlife resources. To implement these provisions effectively, monument managers must know when and what vessels plan to enter the monument, the purpose of visit, and information about the vessel and its cargo. Having such knowledge also gives monument managers the opportunity to inform prospective visitors about resource protection needs and applicable restrictions before they enter the monument. Accordingly, the Commission supports the Department of Commerce's request that the Office of Management and Budget approve the collection of information needed to implement the monument's management plan.

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

Cc: Diana Hynek