Ms. Lynn Barre  
Northwest Regional Office  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
7600 Sand Point Way, NE  
Seattle, WA 98115  

Dear Ms. Barre:

The Marine Mammal Commission has reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service request for information on southern resident killer whales for use in a 5-year review of the population’s status under the Endangered Species Act (75 Fed. Reg. 17377). The announcement requested information on southern resident killer whales that has become available since the stock was listed as endangered in November 2005. The Marine Mammal Commission has not supported any studies on the southern resident killer whale population since that date, but it has supported preparation of two reports on other killer whale populations in the Pacific Northwest that may be useful. Those reports are listed below and copies are enclosed:


If you have questions about information in these reports or any further work the authors may have done on killer whales in the Pacific Northwest, including the southern resident killer whale, please get in touch with them or their organizations directly. If you need information on how to reach them, contact Samantha Simmons, the Marine Mammal Commission’s acting Scientific Program Director (ssimmons@mmc.gov; 301-504-0087).

In case they might be helpful, I also enclose copies of the Marine Mammal Commission’s comments on the Service’s initial proposed listing for the southern resident killer whales (letter dated 22 March 2005); proposed critical habitat designation (letter dated 14 August 2006), the draft recovery plan (letter dated 2 March 2007), and the advance notice of proposed rulemaking to protect southern resident killer whales from effects of vessel traffic, including whale-watching boats (letter dated 15 January 2010). If you have any questions concerning these letters, please let me know.

I hope this information is helpful. We look forward to the results of this review.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosures