



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

30 June 2010

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:

Mock, K. J., and J. W. Testa. 2007. An Agent-Based Model of Predator-Prey Relationships between Transient Killer Whales and Other Marine Mammals. Final Report for Marine Mammal Commission Grant #EE0009709.

Wade, P. R. 2005. Population Biology of Killer Whales and their Marine Mammal Prey in the North Pacific. Prepared for the Workshop on the Ecological Role of Killer Whales in the North Pacific Ocean, Marine Mammal Commission, April 19–21, 2005, Seattle, Washington.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosures