

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

23 March 2007

Ms. Susan Pultz
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Pultz:

The Marine Mammal Commission has reviewed the 22 January 2007 *Federal Register* notice announcing that the National Marine Fisheries Service has initiated a 5-year review of the status of the Hawaiian monk seal under provisions of the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of the review is to determine whether the current listing of the species as endangered remains appropriate. Given that the number of Hawaiian monk seals has declined steadily and significantly since they were listed in 1976, the Marine Mammal Commission believes that the species should continue to be classified as endangered.

The notice requests any information developed since 1976 (i.e., the year in which the Hawaiian monk seal was first listed as endangered) on the species' biology, habitat, conservation measures, status and trends of threats, and any other relevant topics. In response to that request, I attach a list of relevant documents prepared by or for the Marine Mammal Commission. All of these documents have been provided to the Service in the past; however, if additional copies of any of them are needed, we would be pleased to provide such copies.

I hope this information is helpful. If there is anything further we can do to assist in this review, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Ragen
Executive Director

Attachment

**Hawaiian Monk Seal-Related Reports and Documents Prepared
by or for the Marine Mammal Commission**

- Foster, M.A. 1981. Identification of ongoing and planned fisheries in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Final report for MMC contract MM1801069-7. NTIS PB81-207 516. 90 pp.
- Gilmartin, W. 1987. Hawaiian Monk Seal Die-Off Response Plan, a Workshop Report. (Unpublished report to the Marine Mammal Commission)
- Gilmartin, W., and T. Gerrodette. 1986. Hawaiian Monk Seal Population Status and Recovery Potential at Kure Atoll. (Unpublished report to the Marine Mammal Commission)
- Gilmartin, W. 1988. The Hawaiian Monk Seal: Population Status and Current Research Activities. (Unpublished report to the Marine Mammal Commission)
- Johnson, B.W., and P.A. Johnson. 1978. The Hawaiian monk seal on Laysan Island: 1977. Final report for MMC contract MM7AC009. NTIS PB-285 428. 38 pp.
- Johnson, B.W., and P.A. Johnson. 1981. Estimating the Hawaiian monk seal population on Laysan Island. Final report for MMC contract MM1533701-4. NTIS PB82-106 113. 29 pp.
- Johnson, B.W., and P.A. Johnson. 1981. The Hawaiian monk seal on Laysan Island: 1978. Final report for MMC contract MM8AC008. NTIS PB82-109661. 17 pp.
- Johnson, G. 2003. Assessment and Conservation of Hawaiian Monk Seals on Kauai, Hawaii. (Unpublished report to the Marine Mammal Commission)
- Johnson, P.A., B.W. Johnson, and L.R. Taylor. 1981. Inter-island movement of a young Hawaiian monk seal between Laysan Island and Maro Reef. *'Elepaio*, 41(11):113–114. (MMC contracts MM7AC009 and MM8AC008)
- Kenyon, K. 1976. Critical Habitat of the Hawaiian Monk Seal, including a Review of the Status of the Caribbean and Mediterranean Monk Seals. (Unpublished report to the Marine Mammal Commission)
- Laist, D.W. 1996. Entanglement of marine life in marine debris including a comprehensive list of species with entanglement and ingestion records. Pages 99–139 *in* J.M. Coe and D.R. Rogers (eds). *Marine Debris: Sources, Impacts, and Solutions*. Springer-Verlag, New York, NY.
- Lavigne, D.M. 1999. The Hawaiian monk seal: management of an endangered species. Pp. 246–266. *In* J.R. Twiss Jr. and R.R. Reeves (eds). *Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC.
- Marine Mammal Commission. Series 1976-2006. Annual report of the Marine Mammal Commission, calendar years 1975-2004. Report to Congress. Marine Mammal Commission Bethesda, MD.
- Marine Mammal Commission. 2002. Hawaiian Monk Seal Program Review. Honolulu, Hawaii, 15-17 April 2002. Report to the Marine Mammal Commission. Bethesda, MD. 32 p.
- Marine Mammal Commission. 2003. Final Report: Workshop on the Management of Hawaiian Monk Seals on beaches in the main Hawaiian Islands. 29-31 October 2002, Kauai Sheraton Resort, Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii. Marine Mammal Commission. Bethesda, MD. 49 p.
- Nolan, R.S. 1981. Shark control and the Hawaiian monk seal. Final report for MMC contract MM1801065-5. NTIS PB81-201808. 45 pp.
- Ragen, T.J., and D.M. Lavigne. 1999. The Hawaiian monk seal: biology of an endangered species. Pp. 224–245. *In* J.R. Twiss Jr. and R.R. Reeves (eds). *Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC.
- Taylor, L.R. and G. Naftel. 1978. Preliminary investigations of shark predation on the Hawaiian monk seal at Pearl and Hermes Reef and French Frigate Shoals. Final report for MMC contract MM7AC011. NTIS PB-285 626. 34 pp.
- Waring, G.H. Series 1981-2002. Survey of federally-funded marine mammal research and studies FY70–FY00. Reports prepared for the Marine Mammal Commission, Bethesda, MD. National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA.