

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

14 December 2007

Ms. Kaja Brix
Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division, Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Ms. Brix:

By *Federal Register* notice of 29 October 2007, the National Marine Fisheries Service requested comments on a proposed rule to designate two specific areas (one in the Gulf of Alaska and the second in the Bering Sea) as critical habitat for the North Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*). A similar proposed rule was previously published by the Service in the 2 November 2005 *Federal Register*. By letter of 3 January 2006, the Marine Mammal Commission provided extensive comments and recommendations on the earlier proposal. A copy of that letter is enclosed. The Commission's position as reflected in that letter has not changed.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosure