

Marine Mammal Commission
4340 East-West Highway, Room 905
Bethesda, MD 20814

7 July 2009

Ms. Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 7845
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Hynek:

The Marine Mammal Commission has reviewed the notice regarding reporting requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act relative to federally controlled fisheries (74 Fed. Reg. 31689). As stated in the notice, the National Marine Fisheries Service collects information from users of the nation's fishery resources. The Service recognizes the value of these data as an effective tool in enforcing fishery regulations and measuring the consequences of management controls.

In the Commission's opinion, the data obtained through this program are important in characterizing fishing effort, gear types, vessels, etc., and the types of effects on marine living resources. We consider the collection of this information vital to effective management of fisheries and related marine resources and an essential part of the Service's duties in carrying out its functions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director