

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

17 February 2005

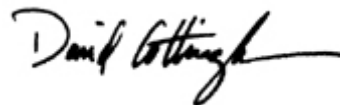
Ms. Mamie Parker
Assistant Director for Fisheries
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Parker:

The Marine Mammal Commission, in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has completed its review of draft revised 2004 stock assessment reports for marine mammals in California-Oregon-Washington. The existing reports for the California and Washington sea otter stocks date back to 1995. Revisions for these stocks are long overdue based on statutory requirements and changes in information. Stock assessment reports can be very useful documents for research and management purposes, but they cannot serve those purposes if they are out of date. For that reason, the Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Service revise the stock assessment reports for the California and Washington sea otter stocks as soon as possible.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our recommendation or wish to discuss it further.

Sincerely,



David Cottingham
Executive Director

cc: Mr. David Allen
Mr. Martin Kodis