

# PACIFIC SCIENTIFIC REVIEW GROUP

A Regional Advisory Group to the National Marine Fisheries Service

Michael Scott  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna  
Commission  
C/o Scripps Inst. of Oceanography  
La Jolla, CA 92037  
PH: (858) 546-7045  
FAX: (858) 546-7133  
e-mail: mscott@iattc.org

Hannah Bernard  
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Robin Brown  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

John Calambokidis  
Cascadia Research

Mark Fraker  
TerraMar Environmental Research,  
Ltd.

Doyle Hanan  
Hanan & Associates, Inc.

Jim Harvey  
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Chuck Janisse  
Federation of Independent  
Seafood Harvesters

Steve Jeffries  
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Katherine Ralls  
Smithsonian Institution

Terry Wright  
Northwest Indian Fisheries  
Commission

Dr. James Balsiger  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

February 26, 2009

Dear Dr. Balsiger,

We would like to provide you with the minutes and recommendations from the most recent meeting of the Pacific Scientific Review Group held 19-21 November 2008. The SRG commends the NMFS for making good progress on the research recommendations previously made by the SRG. However, the lack of funding and the decrease in available shiptime continues to plague NMFS, to the point that now its marine mammal programs are going backwards, and are not even able to maintain current research and obtain data needed for management of marine mammal stocks under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The SRG notes that the cetacean survey of the Hawaiian Islands has been postponed, meaning that there will be no usable population estimates for Hawaiian stocks, and no PBR estimates by which to manage these populations. Similarly, surveys of harbor seal populations in Washington and Oregon can no longer be used under the PBR guidelines and new estimates will be required. The endangered Southern Resident Killer Whale population continues to decline, yet no ESA Recovery Team has been established. The monk seal program has had to cut back on its long-term monitoring of the abundance of this declining endangered species. A Take Reduction Team has been required to deal with the take of false killer whales in the Hawaii-based longline fisheries for several years, but has not been formed due to lack of funds.

We realize the constraints NMFS must operate under, but we believe that a more-flexible approach to some of these mandates could be helpful. For example, an additional TRT to focus on fishery mortality on false killer whale stocks (focusing on the pelagic deep-set longline fishery, but including the shallow-set fishery and inshore fisheries) could be convened if it meets biennially in rotation with the California driftnet TRT. In years when one TRT is not scheduled to meet, it could discuss important issues via virtual conferencing or email.

Once again, the SRG compliments your NMFS staff for their excellent presentations, outstanding research, and support of the SRG.

Sincerely,



Michael Scott  
Chairman, Pacific Scientific Review Group

cc: Distribution list (attached)

**Jim Balsiger**

Asst. Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA - NMFS  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Usha Varanasi**

Science & Research Director  
NW Fisheries Science Center/NMFS  
2725 Montlake Blvd., E.  
Seattle, WA 98112

**Norm Bartoo**

Acting Science & Research Director  
SW Fisheries Science Center/NMFS  
3333 N. Torrey Pines Ct  
La Jolla, CA 92037

**Douglas DeMaster**

Science & Research Director  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center/NMFS  
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.  
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

**Sam Pooley**

Science & Research Director  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
2570 Dole St.  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

**Hannah Bernard**

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund  
P.O. Box 790637  
Paia, HI 96779

**Robin Brown**

Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife  
Marine Mammal Research Program  
7118 NE Vandenberg Ave.  
Corvallis, OR 97330-9446

**Mark A. Fraker**

TerraMar Environmental Research  
8617 Lochside Dr.  
Sidney, B.C. V8L 1M8  
CANADA

**Doyle Hanan**

Hanan & Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 8914  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

**Michael Scott**

Chair, Pacific Scientific Review Group  
IATTC  
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92037

**Chuck Janisse**

Federation of Independent Seafood  
Harvesters (FISH)  
P.O. Box 352  
Bridgewater Corners, VT 0503

**Steve Jeffries**

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
Marine Mammal Investigations  
7801 Phillips Road SW  
Tacoma, WA 98498

**Katherine Ralls**

Smithsonian Institution  
P.O. Box 6356  
Carmel, CA 93921

**Terry E. Wright**

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
6730 Martin Way, E.  
Olympia, WA 98516

**John Calambokidis**

Cascadia Research Collective  
18 1/2 W 4th Ave.  
Olympia, WA 98501

**Jim Harvey**

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories  
8272 Moss Landing Rd  
Moss Landing, CA 95039

**Robyn Thorson**

Regional Director  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
911 NS 11th Ave  
Portland, OR 97332-418

**Ren Lohofener**

Regional Director  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
2800 Cottage Way, W-2602  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**Diane Noda**

US Fish & Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Rd Ste B  
Ventura, CA 93003

**Ken Berg**

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
510 Desmond Dr SE  
Lacey, WA 98503-1273

**CC (via e-mail):**

eamathews@uas.alaska.edu	AK SRG Chair
John.Bengtson@noaa.gov	AKFSC
Marcia.Muto@noaa.gov	AKFSC
Robyn.Angliss@noaa.gov	AKFSC
Dee.Allen@noaa.gov	AKFSC
jealteris@uri.edu	ATL SRG Chair
RWBaird@cascadiaresearch.org	Cascadia Research
Dale.Sweetnam@noaa.gov	CDFG
sveinfougner@cox.net	HLA
David.Cottingham@noaa.gov	F/PR
Kristy.Long@noaa.gov	F/PR
Melissa.Andersen@noaa.gov	F/PR
Tom.Eagle@noaa.gov	F/PR
Jim.Lecky@noaa.gov	F/PR - Director
Deanna_Lynch@fws.gov	FWS
Diane_Bowen@fws.gov	FWS
Lilian_Carswell@fws.gov	FWS
bgisiner@mmc.gov	MMC
tragen@mmc.gov	MMC
Gordon.Waring@noaa.gov	NEFSC
Brad.Hanson@noaa.gov	NWFSC
Mike.Ford@noaa.gov	NWFSC
Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov	NWR
Bob.Lohn@noaa.gov	NWR
Bud.Antonelis@noaa.gov	PIFSC
Erin.Oleson@noaa.gov	PIFSC
Charles.Littnan@noaa.gov	PIFSC
Jason.Baker@noaa.gov	PIFSC
Michael.Marsik@noaa.gov	PIR
Alecia.VanAtta@noaa.gov	PIR
Bill.Robinson@noaa.gov	PIR
Michelle.Yuen@noaa.gov	PIR
David.Schofield@noaa.gov	PIR
Keith.D.Mullin@noaa.gov	SEFSC
Laura.Engleby@noaa.gov	SER
Barbara.Taylor@noaa.gov	SWFSC
Jay.Barlow@noaa.gov	SWFSC
Jeremy.Rusin@noaa.gov	SWFSC
Jim.Carretta@noaa.gov	SWFSC
Karin.Forney@noaa.gov	SWFSC
Lisa.Ballance@noaa.gov	SWFSC
Susan.Chiver@noaa.gov	SWFSC
Karen.Martien@noaa.gov	SWFSC
Christina.Fahy@noaa.gov	SWR
Monica.DeAngelis@noaa.gov	SWR
Chris.Yates@noaa.gov	SWR
Rod.Mcinnis@noaa.gov	SWR