From: Tami Drake
To: Steve Stone;
Subject: Makah DEIS - Request for Extension to Make Comments
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 4:24:28 PM

CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALE COALITION

PROTECTING THE MOST ANCIENT BALEEN WHALE ALIVE TODAY

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May 21, 2008

Steve Stone
NMFS Northwest Region
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Stone:

The Federal Register/ Vol. 73, No. 91/ Friday, May 9, 2008/ Notices/ 26375 announced the release of the Makah DEIS, with a deadline for comments of July 8, 2008.

The California Gray Whale Coalition requests that NMFS extend the deadline for comments 90 days from the current deadline. The current schedule does not make it feasible to critically and thoroughly review, let alone comment, on the 900 page DEIS. The California Gray WhaleCoalitionbelieves that the current schedule for comments and public meetings does not provide the required opportunity for public participation in the process as required by NEPA. Additionally, due to the precedent setting nature of granting a waiver to theMarineMammal Protection Act (MMPA), with national and international implications, this issue must receive the time and attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

Tamara Drake
Co-Founder
California Gray Whale Coalition
www.californiagraywhalecoalition.org