

Date: 2 Oct 09

Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division
Northwest Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

RE: Docket No. 070821475-81493-01, RIN 0648-AV15 – Protective Regulations for Killer Whales in the Northwest Region Under the Endangered Species Act Marine Mammal Protection Act

Dear Assistant Regional Administrator:

Having just participated in a commercial Whale Watching Excursion I would like to offer my comments regarding the proposed new regulations in this docket.

The commercial vessel I was on is a member of the Pacific Whale Watching Association which embraces the true protection of the Southern Resident Killer Whales of which public education is an integral part. I agree with an advocate for their positions that:

1) The current science does not support doubling the distance from the killer whales from 100 yards to 200 yards. Under the existing laws the number of Southern Resident Killer Whales has been increasing for many years, there are more today than there were 10 years ago. **Please maintain and enforce the 100 yard protection zone around the whales as prescribed in the Marine Mammal Protection Act.**

2) The current quarter mile voluntary zone along San Juan Island and the half mile bubble around Lime Kiln Lighthouse has worked well and I support making this a boat free zone, when whales are present, year round. The proposed half mile "no-go zone" from May through September (even when whales are not in the area) is excessive and will not add to protection of the whales. **Please codify the ¼ mile "no-go zone" off San Juan Island from Mitchell Pt. to Eagle Pt. and ½ mile bubble from Lime Kiln Lighthouse when whales are present.**

The educational benefit to the general public from the whale watching industry has been well documented. Doubling the viewing distance would greatly diminish the effectiveness of this education.

The protection of the Southern Resident Killer Whales is of the utmost importance to us all. I am concerned that we are not doing the hard work of addressing contaminants in the food supply chain and simply going after the only visible target.

Thank you for including my comments in the rulemaking process.

Sincerely,



Name: Diana L. Rither

Address: 2299 Scenic Hwy J9
Pensacola, FL 32503

Phone Number: (800) 619 3467

Date: 9-2-2009

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Protected Resources Division
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Sincerely,

I think 100yds is good we never bothered the whales

Name: Gary Malone

Address: 5821 Timberidge Rd
Cedar Falls IA, 50613

Phone Number: 319-464-9433

Date: Sept 3, 2009

Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division
Northwest Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

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Sincerely,

Claudia E. Hennig

Name: Claudia E. Hennig

Address: 2555 Upham St

Lakewood, Co 80214

Phone Number: 303/233-4294

Educate the private Boat owners on the Whale Watching Rules

Date: 09-01-09

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Protected Resources Division
Northwest Regional Office
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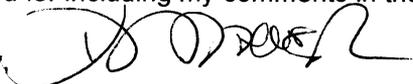
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Sincerely, 
Tim & Kirsten Lambert

Name: _____

Address: 23557 SW DENALI LANE
SHERWOOD, OR 97140

Phone Number: 503 ~~000~~ 803 7589

Please focus on protecting the waters instead of the privately owned vessels instead of changing the protection zone

Date: _____

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Sincerely,



Name:

TOM LARKIN

Address:

8 RICHARDSON DR

CINCINNATI, OHIO 45246

Phone Number:

UNLISTED

EMAIL: TLARKIN2@CINCI.PR.COM

Date: 11/9/09

Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division
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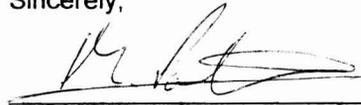
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Thank you for including my comments in the rulemaking process.

Sincerely,



Name: M. PATERSON

Address: 25 Nequaquam Key, Whitefish Bay, WI
LPK, SP 14 745

Phone Number: _____

Date:

Sept 25/09

Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division
Northwest Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
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Sincerely,

Josie Clauser

Name: Josie Clauser

Address: 11-7088 Inlet Dr

Bonaville BC

Phone Number: 604.299.7454

Thank you

Date: AUGUST 12/09

Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division
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Sincerely,

Paul Levisohn

Name: PAUL LEVISOHN

Address: 3701 S. NARCISSE WAY
DENVER CO 80037

Phone Number: 303-756-8748

I believe that the best guarantee of survival of animals in the wild is to get people to appreciate the animals in the wild.

Date: _____

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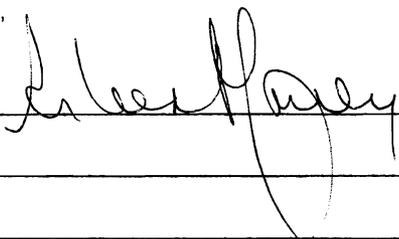
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Sincerely,



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: 604 522-1157

garu70@shaw.ca

Why are the boat engines not being developed to be silent? Surely the electric motor could be used. Whales have echolocation just a thought

Date: 9/3/2009

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Sincerely,

Vicki McCormick

Name: Vicki McCormick

Address: 1271 Redwood Circle #3

Gardnerville NV 89460

Phone Number: 775-265-7475

I would not be able to take my grand children out to experience a whale watching excursion as I had difficulty seeing from the 100 yards distance we were at. 200 yards would not be worth going. The whales were not bothered by us. You should enforce the 100 yard limit on private boats as they are not adhering, won't adhere to further distances.

Date: 10 - 2 - 2009

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Sincerely,

Char Love

Name: Char Love

Address: 7685 Mulberry Lane
Naples FL 34114

Phone Number: 239.417.9760

The crew's personal knowledge and understanding and love of these beautiful animals was very evident on this tour. Listen to the folks who "know" them!

Date: 9-2-09

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Sincerely,



Name: Fred Huebener

Address: 12014 Carney
Warren, MI 48089

Phone Number: 586-405-0901

Allowing people to appreciate the whales by viewing them is integral to educating people about whales and encouraging them to protect them. At 100 yards it took binoculars to see the whales in a meaningful way, 200 yards would make a whale watch cruise pointless. This would not serve anyone's interest (tourism dollars, whale education or protection).

JM

Date: 9/17/09

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Protected Resources Division
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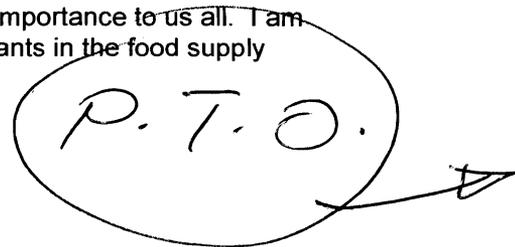
Sincerely,



Name: Phillipa Christian

Address: 65-1158 Manakoa Hwy, # 8A
PMB 108, KAMUELA, HI 96743

Phone Number: (808) 987-0359



Aloha,

I am involved in whale watching in Hawaii & this was my first experience watching whales in Washington.

I have been VERY impressed with the care that the Captain has taken to ensure that he stayed well "outside" the limits of the law ^{in terms of approaching the whales.} The crew very clearly support the education of the tourists to the area, with roughly 2½ hours of dialogue.

I absolutely can not see any benefit in doubling the distance regulations currently in place, as mandated by the MMPA. Surely, there are other, more critical issues you can spend your time & resources on!

Leave everything as it is!

Thanks PPL

Date: SEPT 17 2009

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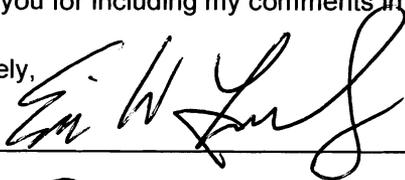
2) The current quarter mile voluntary zone along San Juan Island and the half mile bubble around Lime Kiln Lighthouse has worked well and I support making this a boat free zone, when whales are present, year round. The proposed half mile "no-go zone" from May through September (even when whales are not in the area) is excessive and will not add to protection of the whales. **Please codify the ¼ mile "no-go zone" off San Juan Island from Mitchell Pt. to Eagle Pt. and ½ mile bubble from Lime Kiln Lighthouse when whales are present.**

The educational benefit to the general public from the whale watching industry has been well documented. Doubling the viewing distance would greatly diminish the effectiveness of this education.

The protection of the Southern Resident Killer Whales is of the utmost importance to us all. I am concerned that we are not doing the hard work of addressing contaminants in the food supply chain and simply going after the only visible target.

Thank you for including my comments in the rulemaking process.

Sincerely,



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P.T.O.
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Hello.

MY OBSERVATIONS OF THE CREW OPERATING THE COMMERCIAL CHARTERS FOR WHALE WATCHING ACTIVELY SUPPORT AND HONOR THE "CURRENT" LAWS REGULATING THE DISTANCE AND OPERATIONAL BEHAVIORS OF THESE CHARTERS. WITHIN THOSE EXISTING BOUNDARIES I OBSERVE THE WHALES AND DOLPHINS NAVIGATE WITHIN THEIR NATURE PATH AND STATE, I ~~DON'T~~ DID NOT SEE ANY IMPACT. CHANGING THE CURRENT REGULATIONS AND LAWS WOULD PROVIDE A DISADVANTAGE TO THE TOURIST AND EDUCATION OF ABOUT WHALES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME. PLEASE LEAVE THE EXISTING LAWS IN PLACE. THANK YOU. ERIC LEBERER
Eric Leberer