



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Northwest Region  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E. Bldg 1  
Seattle, WA 98115

September 3, 2010

Dear Task Force Member:

Thank you for your continuing participation on the Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force for the California sea lion/salmonid conflict at the Bonneville Dam. We look forward to seeing you again at our meetings in Portland on October 25-26 and November 9-10, 2010. We appreciate your thoughtful service and dedication to a productive dialogue on this difficult and emotional wildlife management matter.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is reconvening the Task Force following the third field season of sea lion removals as recommended in the 2007 Task Force report and in accordance with our March 17, 2008, Letter of Authorization to the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, under Section 120(c)(5) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The purpose of the Task Force, at this time, is to evaluate the effectiveness of the actions taken to reduce California sea lion impacts to listed salmonids and if necessary provide recommendations for different or additional actions. NMFS will consider the available data and any additional recommendations from the Task Force to determine how to proceed. Until or unless we make a change to the current program, the States' authorization remains valid until June 30, 2012.

As you know, we have again engaged DS Consulting (owner Donna Silverberg) to facilitate and manage the Task Force meetings. I understand that DS Consulting has contacted each of you to ask for your help in identifying what information you believe will be useful to the Task Force's evaluation. NMFS is compiling the available information in preparation for the Task Force discussions. Please contact DS Consulting or my project staff lead, Garth Griffin, if you have any further thoughts on information that will be of use to the Task Force.

Prior to the meetings in October, we will provide further instructions regarding your responsibilities for the evaluation process as outlined in Section 120(c)(5) of the MMPA. We will also ask you to consider several questions to help us with our review of the program to date and in weighing future recommendations of the Task Force. For example, your 2007 recommendations included adaptive management of non-lethal hazing efforts and an interim goal for removal activities to reduce California sea lion predation to a 3-year average of 1 percent (of adult salmonids) within 6 years. These recommendations were incorporated into the NMFS' decision to partially approve the States' application for lethal removal. We would appreciate a Task Force assessment of whether the interim goal appears to meet the expectations of the group as a measure of the removal efforts, based on the first three years of data.



As mandated by Section 120 the upcoming Task Force meetings will be open to the public and notice of the meetings, with supplemental information, will be announced to the public on our Northwest Region website and through a media advisory. We intend to provide time at the beginning of the second day of the meetings to allow the public to provide or identify new or relevant information to the Task Force to aid its deliberations. The public will not be allowed to discuss or debate issues with the Task Force during working sessions.

Thank you again for your attentive and professional assistance. Your contribution to this effort has greatly improved NMFS' ability to manage a complex wildlife management program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Stelle".

William W. Stelle, Jr.  
Regional Administrator

List of Task Force Members:

Daryl Boness (Marine Mammal Commission)

Bruce Buckmaster (Salmon for All)

Jody Calica (Warm Springs Tribes)

Joyce Casey (Corps of Engineers)

Bob DeLong (National Marine Fisheries Service)

Patty Dornbusch (National Marine Fisheries Service)

Doug Hatch (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission)

Tom Loughlin (Marine Mammal Scientist)

Deb Marriott (Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership)

Barry McPherson (American Fisheries)

Guy Norman (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)

Joe Oatman (Nez Perce Tribes)

Dennis Richey (Oregon Anglers)

Carl Scheeler (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation)

David Shepherdson (Oregon Zoo)

Paul Ward (Yakama Tribes)

Steve Williams (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)

Sharon Young (Humane Society)