JUL 2 2 2011

Mr. Roy Elicker
Director
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue, Northeast
Salem, OR 97303

Mr. Phil Anderson
Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way, North
Olympia, WA 98501

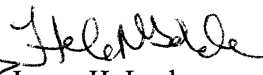Dear Mr. Elicker and Mr. Anderson,

I am writing concerning your May 12, 2011, Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Section 120 letter of authorization (LOA) to lethally remove certain individually identifiable California sea lions that are having a significant negative impact on the decline or recovery of at-risk salmonids in the Columbia River.

You are aware that the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries) decision to authorize the lethal removal of California sea lions is currently the subject of litigation in the Federal District Court in the District of Columbia. We have evaluated the litigation risks and discussed with your staffs various options for proceeding. In light of the fact that sea lion activity will be limited until next spring, we have concluded it is in our collective interest to permanently suspend the 2011 LOA and instead consider a new request for 2012. Therefore, pursuant to condition 15 of the LOA, NOAA Fisheries is revoking the 2011 LOA, effective July 27, 2011.

If you submit a new request, we will immediately begin to fulfill the statutory requirements, with the goal of making a final decision no later than February 29, 2012.

While we understand the States are not pleased with this decision, we appreciate nonetheless, your lack of objection to NMFS' revocation of the 2011 LOA. Please contact Garth Griffin, NOAA Fisheries Northwest Region, Protected Resources Division, at 503-231-2005 if you have any questions or need any assistance. We look forward to collaborating with you on your upcoming request.

Sincerely,

James H. Lecky
Director,
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service

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