



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

June 26, 2015

Dear Colleague,

We would like to invite you, or a representative of your organization, to attend a Review of NOAA Fisheries' Science on Marine Mammals and Turtles conducted by NOAA Fisheries' Southwest and Northwest Fisheries Science Centers. This review will take place at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, CA, 27-31 July 2015.

High quality science is fundamental to NOAA as a science-based agency. To maximize the transparency and effectiveness of its science and its value to NOAA and the nation, NOAA Fisheries conducts yearly peer reviews of scientific activities at each of its six Science Centers. In 2015 all Science Centers will be reviewed on protected species science supporting the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act. The objective for these reviews is to examine and evaluate each Center's current scientific programs that provide information relative to the conservation and management of all marine mammals, endangered or threatened wildlife, and species of concern under NOAA Fisheries' jurisdiction. Reviewers will provide advice to the Centers on the direction and quality of their protected species science programs. Additional information about these science reviews and results of previous reviews can be found here: <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/science-program-review/>.

Our July joint SWFSC/NWFSC Science Review will focus on pinnipeds, cetaceans and turtles. The members of our scientific review panel are respected members of the scientific community and are internal as well as external to NOAA. Our Science Review is open to the public and time will be set aside July 27-29 for comments from stakeholders and the public.

The Terms of Reference, draft agenda, the membership of our scientific review panel, and other review information are posted on this webpage (<https://swfsc.noaa.gov/2015ProtectedMammalTurtleReview/>). The final agenda and background documents will be posted in the coming weeks. After the review is complete, the panel's comments and NOAA Fisheries' response will also be publicly available on this webpage.

We look forward to a productive review of this important part of NOAA Fisheries' science portfolio. If you would like to attend, either in person or via webcast, please RSVP to Roslind.Varghese@noaa.gov.

Most sincerely,

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