



Society for Conservation Biology

A global community of conservation professionals

October 30, 2014

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and
NOAA Administrator
Office of the Under Secretary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Admiral Paul F. Zukunft
Commandant of the Coast Guard
Commandant Cg-00
US Coast Guard
Headquarters
2100 2nd St SW Stop 7000
Washington, DC 20593-7000

Dear Dr. Sullivan and Admiral Zukunft,

On behalf of the Marine Section of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), I write to congratulate the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) and the Coast Guard on co-leading the International Maritime Organization process to produce guidelines to reduce incidental noise from commercial ships. As practitioners and researchers in the field of conservation science, we recognize the importance of establishing these guidelines. Shipping is one of the greatest contributors to underwater anthropogenic noise and building quieter ships is one of the most effective means to decrease the effects of ship noise on marine animals. Accordingly, SCB applauds the joint efforts undertaken by your agencies to respond appropriately on the international scene to available scientific evidence on the effects of noise from shipping.

SCB believes that these guidelines are an important step towards reducing the impact of underwater noise on marine animals. We hope other agencies and companies will join the efforts led by this initiative to ensure widespread application of the guidelines. Accordingly, SCB is convinced that NOAA and the Coast Guard still have major roles to play in this issue,



A global community of conservation professionals through spearheading the implementation of the guidelines in the U.S. as well as leading other efforts to improve the overall quality of the marine environment along shipping routes. SCB also encourages both NOAA and the Coast Guard to continue such science-based decision making in other future marine management processes, especially those surrounding oil and gas extraction, the industrialization of the Arctic and the development of marine renewable energy capacity, primarily in the Atlantic.

SCB is an international professional organization whose mission is to advance the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity, support the dissemination of conservation science, and increase the application of science to management and policy. Numbering in the thousands worldwide, the Society's membership comprises of a wide range of people interested in the conservation and study of biological ecosystems, including but not limited to, resource managers, educators, government and private conservation workers, and students. SCB, through its membership, is capable of engaging diverse constituents and providing many resources necessary for a positive change towards sustainability, from developing new applied methods and techniques for conservation, to advocacy efforts, to science and conservation education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Cigliano', is written over a light blue circular background.

John A. Cigliano, PhD,
President, Marine Section, Society for Conservation Biology
Co-Chair & Scientific Program Chair, 3rd International Marine Conservation Congress