UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OFCOMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149 U.S.A.

April 25, 2011

Mr. Doug Inkley, Ph.D., Senior Specialist
National Wildlife Federation
11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston, VA 20190

FOIA-Request # 2011-00365

Dear Mr. Inkley:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request # 2011-00365 dated March 29, 2011 and received in our office March 29, 2011. You specifically requested:

Any documents (including correspondence, transcripts, and other interagency materials) relating to Marine Mammals in the Gulf of Mexico since April 19, 2010 including;

1. Documents relating to marine mammal mortality and morbidity in the Gulf of Mexico, including the number of marine mammal, species, age, locations and status (this includes the reports of bottlenose dolphin strandings of January-March, 2011).
2. Documents relating to the cause of mortality or morbidity for marine mammals related to number one above.
3. Documents relating to research on sources of marine mammal mortality and morbidity in the Gulf of Mexico, including primary research, preliminary research results, and communications regarding outside research results.
4. Documents relating to the rehabilitation, recovery and status of marine mammals, by species, affected or possibly affected by the BP oil spill.

This letter confirms that we have responsive documents, but at this time have not identified all responsive documents or determined whether they can be released. Due to the large number of FOIA requests we receive, and the scope of your request (approximately 10,000 pages), we anticipate it will take approximately 2-3 months to process your request.

Our initial review of your request reveals that many of the responsive documents are available in a public domain website at:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/mmume/catacean_gulfofmexico2010.htm

This is an interim release of records concerning your request as we release a publically available website with information related to marine mammals, strandings and statistical summaries.

We receive a large number of requests and try to answer them quickly. The more detailed the request, the more efficient it is for us to answer.

To expedite the process, please review the public website above for documents related to your request and resubmit a detailed request that identifies those documents not in the public domain you consider responsive. We will then be able to process your revised request more efficiently.

If we do not receive your reply within 30 days, we will assume you do not wish to proceed and will administratively close your request.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 305-361-4286.

Sincerely,

Sophia Howard
FOIA Coordinator
Southeast Fisheries Science Center