

2006 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

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1. Department or Agency

Marine Mammal Commission

2. Fiscal Year

2006

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

3b. GSA

Committee No.

20512

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

11/16/2005 11/16/2007

6. Expected Renewal Date

11/16/2007

7. Expected Term Date

02/25/2006

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

8b. Specific Termination Authority

16 U.S.C. 1406

8c. Actual Term Date

02/25/2006

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Enacted

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 1406

13. Effective Date

12/21/1972

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

Report Title

Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals -- Report to the Marine Mammal Commission

Number of Committee Reports Listed:

1

17a. Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$6,840.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$1,395.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$8,235.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.12	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee was established to (1) review information concerning the impacts of anthropogenic sound on marine mammals, 2) identify areas of scientific agreement, disagreement, and uncertainty, 3) identify priority research needs, and 4) pursue agreement on management actions and strategies needed to avoid or mitigate adverse effects of anthropogenic sound on marine mammals and their environment. The Committee concluded its meetings in FY

2005, but did not reach consensus on all points. Members were invited to submit statements to be provided to the Commission in conjunction with a summary report on the Committee's activities. The charter was renewed until February 25, 2006 to provide time for members to prepare and submit their statements.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Marine Mammal Commission selected committee members to represent the wide variety of stakeholders and interest groups involved in this issue. A Commission contractor conducted an extensive series of interviews with individuals from parties whose activities introduce sound into the marine environment, non-governmental organizations, scientists with pertinent expertise, and government agencies with programs or responsibilities related to marine mammals, to identify all interests involved and to ensure that the Commission selected members who would effectively represent those interests.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The advisory committee met three times in FY 2004 and three times in FY 2005. The meetings provided a useful forum for discussion of issues related to possible adverse effects of anthropogenic sound on marine mammals and identification of actions to reduce or eliminate such effects. No additional meetings were held during FY 2006. However, the Committee remained active beyond its original termination date to enable members and coalitions to prepare statements of their perspectives for consideration by the Commission.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Scientists have identified the potential impact of sound in the ocean as one of the least understood, but potentially significant, threats to marine mammals. As such, Congress directed the Commission to convene a series of meetings “to share findings, survey acoustic 'threats' to marine mammals, and develop means of reducing those threats.” The work of the Committee was essential to the Commission in developing the information necessary to satisfy this mandate. No similar efforts have been made to bring together the diverse interest groups and experts involved in this issue. Congress recognized that the Commission, because of its independent status and technical and policy expertise, was uniquely qualified to bring together the stakeholders in a forum to allow examination and seek resolution of the controversial and complex questions related to the impacts of anthropogenic sound in the marine environment.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

The Committee completed its work in February 2006, at which time it was terminated.

Designated Federal Officer

David Cottingham Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Balcomb, Kenneth	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Senior Scientist and Executive Director, Center for Whale Research, Inc.	Representative Member

Boensel, Mark	07/30/2005	02/25/2006	Director, Environmental Protection, Safety and Occupational Health Division, U.S. Navy (OPNAV N45)	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Cottingham, David	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Dolman, Sarah	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Science Officer, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society	Representative Member
Gill, Chip	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	President, International Association of Geophysical Contractors	Representative Member
Gopnik, Morgan	09/14/2005	02/25/2006	Senior Vice President for Conservation, The Ocean Conservancy	Representative Member
Green, Marsha	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	President, The Ocean Mammal Institute, Professor, Albright College	Representative Member
Heskett, Erin	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Senior Program Officer, Wildlife and Habitat Program, International Fund for Animal Welfare	Representative Member
Hildebrand, John	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Professor of Oceanography, Scripps Institution of Oceanography	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kodis, Martin	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Chief, Branch of Resource Management Support, US Fish and Wildlife Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
LaBelle, Robert	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Deputy Associate Director, Offshore Minerals Management, Minerals Management Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Metcalf, Kathy	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Director, Maritime Affairs, Chamber of Shipping of America	Representative Member
Nachtigall, Paul	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Director, Marine Mammal Research Program, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii	Representative Member

Pittenger, Richard	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Retired	Representative Member
Purdy, G.	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Director, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University	Representative Member
Ray, James	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Manager, Environmental Ecology Response, Shell Global Solutions (US) Inc.	Representative Member
Reeve, Michael	09/30/2004	02/25/2006	National Science Foundation, Division of Ocean Sciences	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Reynolds, Joel	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Senior Attorney, Co-Director, Urban Program, Natural Resources Defense Council	Representative Member
Rose, Naomi	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Marine Mammal Scientist, Humane Society of the United States	Representative Member
Schoennagel, Charles	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Deputy Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional Office, Minerals Management Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Stone, Frank	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Marine Resources Program Manager, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (N45)	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Sutter, Frederick	12/30/2003	02/25/2006	Deputy Regional Administrator, Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Tackett, Bruce	12/22/2003	02/25/2006	Washington Representative, ExxonMobil Corporation	Representative Member
Tyack, Peter	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Senior Scientist, Biology Department, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Representative Member
Wan, Sara	12/15/2003	02/25/2006	Commissioner, California Coastal Commission	Representative Member

West, Richard	08/31/2005	02/25/2006	President and CEO, Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education	Representative Member
Wieting, Donna	05/30/2005	02/25/2006	Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service Research Oceanographer/Senior Lecturer, Scripps Institution of Oceanography	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member Representative Member
Worcester, Peter	12/15/2003	02/25/2006		

Number of Committee Members Listed: 28

Narrative Description

The Commission established this committee to enable interested parties to participate in facilitated discussions on ways to reduce impacts of anthropogenic sound on marine mammals. In the course of these discussions, several committee members' organizations took steps to adopt measures and strategies to protect marine mammals. Performance measures include providing a forum: (1) to discuss and seek agreement on research priorities and appropriate management measures; (2) to afford opportunities for agencies to respond to public concerns; and (3) to allow potential litigants to discuss concerns with agencies out of court. The only activity planned for FY 2006 was the development and submission of statements by committee members and caucuses and completion of the committee's report to the Commission. During FY 2006 three members and four caucuses representing multiple members submitted such statements. These are included in the final committee report submitted to the Commission on February 1, 2006.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety
Trust in government
Major policy changes

☐
☐
☐

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Advance in scientific research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

0

Number of Recommendations Comments

No consensus recommendations were developed. However, recommendations were formally submitted by various members and coalitions of members.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The Commission is in the process of considering the recommendations of committee members as it prepares a report on the effects of anthropogenic sound for Congress.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback will provided to members' recommendations/advice in a report to Congress being prepared by the Commission.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The Commission's report to Congress will contain a number of recommendations concerning research and management activities related to the effects of sound on marine mammals. Some may require legislation, others can be implemented through changes in administrative practices and/or funding priorities.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A