



Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles  
3601 S. Gaffey St. # 8  
San Pedro, CA 90731

January 22, 2010

Dr. Clarissa Anderson  
Executive Director  
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
9500 Gilman Drive, 0206  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0214

Dear Dr. Anderson:

On behalf of Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles, I enthusiastically endorse the valuable data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego.

The Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles receives on average 350-400 stranded marine mammals each year. These animals suffer from a variety of maladies, but one of the most debilitating is domoic acid toxicity. The monthly report by SCCOOS on marine mammal strandings associated with confirmed or suspect cases of domoic acid exposure has been invaluable in helping us keep abreast of regional trends associated with harmful algal blooms. This timely assessment and informative format is helpful in our communication and engagement with the public to try to increase understanding and awareness of this environmental condition that has important implications for human and animal health.

As a science-based decision support system, SCCOOS collaborates with local, state and federal agencies, resource managers, industry, policy makers, educators, scientists and the general public to provide data, models and products that advance our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global ocean. SCCOOS focuses on coastal observations and product development to provide the information necessary to address issues on marine operations, coastal hazards, climate variability and change, and ecosystems, fisheries, and water quality.

I understand that SCCOOS is funded primarily by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sustained funding for SCCOOS will be crucial to the maintenance of the program's ocean observing network and to the continuity of the important data products and services that these observations enable. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Lauren Palmer*

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Hospital Director  
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