



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
West Coast Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

December 15, 2014

Kristen Koch, Ph.D.  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive  
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Koch:

This letter is regarding the transfer of 10 "pre-listed" captive black abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*) from the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific abalone facility in San Diego, California, to the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) in La Jolla, California. The Navy can no longer support their abalone facility, including the maintenance and care of these specimens, as well as associated abalone research activities. The SWFSC has agreed to receive and care for the 10 endangered black abalone currently held at SSC Pacific. The Navy has submitted a detailed plan for the transport and transfer of the abalone from SSC Pacific to the SWFSC. The NMFS West Coast Region (WCR) approves the transfer of the black abalone, and we appreciate that the SWFSC has agreed to receive and provide care for these endangered animals.

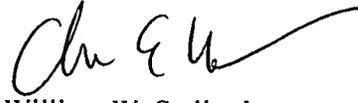
Once the black abalone are transferred to the SWFSC, the Navy will be relinquished of all responsibilities relating to the black abalone, and the SWFSC will assume responsibility for their continued care and maintenance. Since these abalone were collected before the species was listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (74 FR 1937, January 14, 2009), the abalone are considered "pre-listed" animals that are exempt from the ESA section 9(a)(1)(A) and 9(a)(1)(G) prohibitions. As such, the care and maintenance of these 10 specimens do not require an ESA authorization. However, these specimens cannot be used for captive propagation or other research without obtaining an ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) permit. This letter further provides guidance regarding what activities can and cannot be conducted using these pre-listed captive black abalone prior to receiving an ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) permit.

- The transferred black abalone may be treated for diseases, cared for and maintained at the SWFSC.
- Each of these black abalone should be individually identifiable and the SWFSC must keep documentation and this letter on file verifying the pre-listed status of these animals.
- The black abalone cannot be used for captive propagation or research without obtaining a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit.
- In the unlikely event that these abalone spawn spontaneously, you must notify (within 2 business days) and submit a report to the WCR (within 2 weeks; see contact below) describing the conditions under which the event naturally occurred and steps to be taken to prevent a reoccurrence. In the event that the gametes fertilize and the progeny survive, they must be also be reported. These progeny will then need to be covered under a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit.



Thank you for your cooperation and for assuming responsibility for the transferred black abalone. Please contact Jeffrey Jahn at 707-575-6097, or via email at [Jeffrey.Jahn@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Jahn@noaa.gov), if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

*for*   
William W. Stelle, Jr.  
Regional Administrator

cc: Melissa Neuman, Ph.D., NMFS, West Coast Region, Long Beach, California  
Susan Wang, NMFS, West Coast Region, Long Beach, California  
Jeffrey Jahn, NMFS, West Coast Region, Santa Rosa, California