




"Daryl Boness"
<mmsci@megalink.net>
10/16/2008 08:56 AM

To <Ben_Becker@nps.gov>
cc "Marine Mammal Science"
<marinemammalscience@gmail.com>
bcc
Subject Decision on "Modeling the effects of El Niño, density dependence, and disturbance on harbor seal counts..."

History:  This message has been replied to.

Dear Dr. Becker:

I have now received input from some of the original reviewers and Associate Editor on your replies to the concerns and questions raised by Dr. Corey Goodman (and others with similar points being made) concerning your in press paper entitled "Modeling the effects of El Niño, density dependence, and disturbance on harbor seal counts in Drakes Estero, California: 19972007." I have also spoken (or emailed) with Dr. Susan Roberts of the NRC and Dr. Tom Moore of the California Fish & Game. I am satisfied that there is no basis for considering pulling your paper from Marine Mammal Science for ethical grounds (scientific misconduct). The reviews I received based on your responses to Dr. Goodman's questions and your new analyses suggest there is no need to even revise your manuscript before publication should be allowed. I concur with the reviewers that the paper should be allowed to move forward with publication, but I also believe it would be best to include the updated information and improved analyses that you have proposed in your emails to me. In the revised paper, you should acknowledge the questioned data point and at least note that the conclusions would not change whether this point is included or not. Since you have information available on the 2008 harbor seal and oyster harvest levels I would also like to see you include in the discussion a statement about how this might affect your conclusions. It would be helpful if you identified in the revised paper where you have made the substantive changes as you indicate you will in your email replies.

I will process your revised paper as quickly as possible once I receive it. I appreciate your cooperation in this unusual situation regarding your paper that was accepted for publication in Marine Mammal Science.

Sincerely,

Daryl J. Boness
Editor
Marine Mammal Science