



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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May 10, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to express my enthusiastic support for the research project that Pacific Biodiversity Institute (PBI) has proposed to conduct related to the Inland Waters Harbor Porpoise.

The harbor porpoise is a State Candidate Species in Washington, which means that it will be reviewed in the future for possible listing as endangered, threatened or sensitive. New data collected by the PBI will advance our scientific understanding of the harbor porpoise in Washington and contribute to the development of a status review.

The PBI principal investigator has been in contact with me since the initiation of the harbor porpoise research project and I know the approach is both innovative and technically sound. This coordination has ensured that the project's goals and measurable objectives will be useful to our agency as we move forward in the future to develop a status review for this species in Washington.

I am confident that greater knowledge of this species will also provide important insights into the overall health of Puget Sound, and by involving citizen scientists in the study, this project will provide the added benefit of raising awareness about a species that is not well known by the general public.

I strongly support the PBI harbor porpoise research effort and hope that the Washington Sea Grant program will be able to provide financial support to the project, which will ultimately provide important information on harbor porpoise in Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harriet Allen", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Harriet Allen, Manager  
Endangered and Threatened Species Section