

**CALIFORNIA TURTLE & TORTOISE CLUB**

**P.O. BOX 7300  
VAN NUYS, CA 91409-7300**

[www.tortoise.org](http://www.tortoise.org)



BY MAIL AND E-MAIL

July 11, 2007

Rodney R. McInnis  
Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4213  
<longlineefp.swr@noaa.gov>

RE: RIN 0648-XA73 Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permit.

Dear Sir:

The California Turtle & Tortoise Club urges you to deny this request for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP). If approved, this exemption would allow the use of longline fishing gear off the coast of California in an area where it has been restricted to benefit the critically endangered Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle.

The California Turtle & Tortoise Club has over 1,500 members in 12 Chapters located throughout California. CTTC was founded in 1964 with the purpose of preserving and conserving the world's turtles and tortoises, and to educating the public about these species. The proposed EFP would allow longline fishing and undermine successful conservation measures protecting the critically endangered Leatherback Sea Turtle and other species in waters off the State of California. The CTTC membership is extremely concerned that the Service is considering relaxing regulations designed to protect Leatherback Sea Turtles in our state waters for the benefit of one individual. The Leatherback Sea Turtle is in serious trouble and should be protected from this needless take.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please include CTTC in any more mailings on this and related matters. Correspondence should be directed to: California Turtle and Tortoise Club, P.O. Box 7300, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7300 or by e-mail to <mconnor@tortoise.org>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Michael J. Connor, Ph.D., Chair  
California Turtle & Tortoise Club  
Executive Board