



**EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Hanoi, Vietnam**

June 4, 2014

AMBASSADOR

Helene Marsh
The Society for Marine Mammalogy
James Cook University, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
Townsville, Queensland 4811
Australia

Dear Ms. Marsh:

Thank you for your letter dated May 14, 2014. In response to your letter, I wanted to assure you that the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and the United States Government as a whole are focused on the conservation of marine mammals in Southeast Asia, and particularly the freshwater dolphins of the Mekong River.

With our colleagues throughout the United States Government, we have engaged in policy advocacy and technical capacity building to encourage the countries of the Mekong to consider the potential ecological impacts of hydropower and other water infrastructure projects in the Mekong Basin.

The efforts of your organization play a critical role in our policy goals to protect these animals, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you and The Society for Marine Mammalogy for your hard work on this issue. We look forward to working with you on our shared goal in the future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. B. Shear", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David B. Shear