

10 September 2013

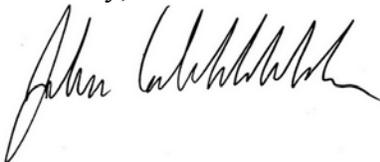
To Whom it May Concern,

This letter serves as a recommendation for the Research Vessel *Derek M. Baylis*. Our non-profit organization, Cascadia Research, has contracted the *Baylis* for two weeks of research in both 2012 and 2013 as part of the Southern California Behavioral Response Study (SOCAL-BRS). This study consists of interdisciplinary research collaboration with the objective to provide a scientific basis for estimating risk and minimizing effects of active sonar for the U. S. Navy and regulatory agencies. Specifically, we required an independent research platform for a passive acoustics component that would provide real-time detection and tracking of beaked whales and other target species. This required a relatively quiet vessel that could work offshore and quickly respond to continually changing needs.

The *Derek M. Baylis* provided us with a quiet and relatively stable platform while under sail, which increases our chances at successful acoustic detection of relatively quiet beaked whales. The large cockpit and A-frame allows for easy deployment and retrieval of our equipment, and there was ample storage for equipment. The galley table worked well as a computer workstation. The boat was extremely well maintained, with no down-time due to problems. In fact, in the interim between our 2012 and 2013 fieldwork, several of our suggested improvements were made to the vessel. Our research protocol required flexibility to respond to frequency changes in the plan and close coordination with the other research vessels on the SOCAL-BRS project, and the vessel's crew was very accommodating to our needs.

The *Derek M. Baylis* is a great research platform for relatively small projects that benefit from a low-noise environment. We were especially appreciative of the low environmental impact of this vessel. Our fuel use was just a trickle of what would typically be required for this type of work and our carbon footprint was more of a toe print. We recommend this vessel for projects of this nature, and hope to use it again in the future.

Sincerely,



John Calambokidis  
Research Biologist, Cascadia Research  
Adjunct Faculty, Evergreen State College