

December 16, 2015

To: Raúl Súnico Galdames  
Subsecretario de Pesca  
Subsecretaria de Pesca de Chile  
Ministerio de Economía

CC: María Ángela Barbieri  
Jefa División de Administración Pesquera

Jorge Guerra Münchmeyer  
División Administración Pesquera

Pedro Poblete  
Fiscal Adjunto

Dear Raúl Súnico Galdames:

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) since you will be leading the investigation to identify the cause of the mass mortality event in the Aysen fjords affecting more than 300 Sei whales. As an international scientific organization representing more than 500 scientists and wildlife disease specialists, we are extremely concerned about this recently-discovered mortality event that represents one of the largest whale mortalities ever recorded.

Identifying the cause of a cetacean mass mortality event is a complex task that requires a multidisciplinary investigative approach. The aim of the investigation should be to rule out some of the common causes of cetacean mortality and determine the cause of death. The findings of this investigation may have serious implications for animal, human, and environmental health.

In the coming months the international marine scientific community will be watching what happens next in Aysen, Chile. We are certain that your organization and the Policia de Investigaciones will have the assistance of local professional organizations, academic institutions, and other scientists, and IAAAM also offers our technical and professional support as an international group of marine mammal health experts.

We wish you the best in this investigation and look forward to seeing its findings.

Sincerely



Dr. Lisa Murphy, President  
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