Brian Wells,

Thank you for your time and effort in coordinating the review of our paper “Entanglement rates and population trends of Steller (*Eumetopias jubatus*) and California (*Zalophus californianus*) sea lions on the north coast of Washington state”.

I am looking to clarify what you mean by asking that we elevate the paper beyond a simple accounting of entanglements. We feel that the analysis we performed was sufficient for our research question and that any attempt to perform more complex analysis would likely extend beyond the scope of the data. The goal of the paper was to understand how often entanglement occurs off our coast and what the most prevalent sources of entangling materials were in order to build more targeted management and mitigation. We have gone above and beyond our initial goal by adding context about the health and survival of entangled individuals and sources of entangling materials through use of data from haulout counts, the stranding record, and beach debris surveys. Many recently published entanglement papers from respected journals contain much less contextual analysis and are still highly valuable resources to the entanglement community. However, if you have in mind a way to elevate this paper further, please do not hesitate to share it with us. We would be excited to improve this work with the help of another perspective.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Allyn and Jonathan Scordino