



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
Marine Mammal Biological Laboratory  
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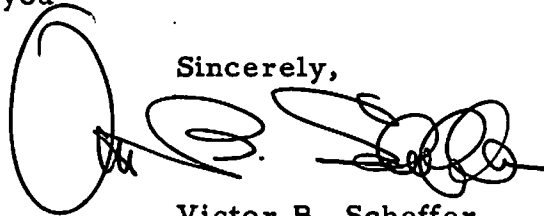
Dr. H. B. Stenzel  
Shell Development Company  
Exploration and Production  
Research Division  
Houston, Texas

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

In your article "Oysters: composition of the larval shell" you showed an X-ray diffraction pattern. We are interested in the possibility of using X-ray to reveal discontinuities (growth layers) in the teeth of fur seals as an indication of age.

The attached sample is the right upper canine of a known age, 6-year female (tagged as a pup and killed six years later). Surface ridges indicate the age fairly clearly in animals up to about 10 years old, but above that age we have to section the tooth longitudinally, polish it, and study the layers under a lens.

We would appreciate reference to a source of information on the X-ray diffraction technique. Thank you



Sincerely,

Victor B. Scheffer  
Biologist

Attach.