



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

6 August 2009

Ms. Nadene G. Kennedy
Permit Office, Room 755
Office of Polar Programs
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

By notice in the *Federal Register* dated 8 July 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 32651), your office requested comments on a permit modification request from Robert A. Garrott, Ph.D., seeking authorization under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 to temporarily attach temperature-logging tags on Weddell seal pups for scientific research purposes.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the National Science Foundation defer issuing the requested authorization pending confirmation from the National Marine Fisheries Service that the permit holder has obtained the necessary authorization for the planned activities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (see the enclosed 20 July 2009 letter to the Service).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. P. Michael Payne