



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

6 October 2009

Mr. Timothy J. Van Norman  
Chief, Branch of Permits  
Division of Management Authority  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22203

Re: Request for Amendment of Permit No. MA049136  
(Charles Grossman, Ph.D., Xavier University)

Dear Mr. Van Norman:

The Marine Mammal Commission, in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced permit amendment request with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Permit No. MA049136 authorizes the taking by harassment of manatees being maintained in captivity for rehabilitation, enhancement, and/or research purposes in the course of conducting passive listening and sound playback research. The permit holder requests that the permit be amended to authorize him to acquire annually from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission up to three larynxes (including pharynxes, trachea, and primary bronchi) from necropsied Florida manatees. The samples would be used to investigate the mechanics of manatee vocalizations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service approve the requested amendment, provided that the conditions contained in the current permit remain in effect.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this recommendation.

Sincerely,

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

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director