



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

20 August 2010

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

Re: Permit Application No. PRT-14932A
(Vince Bacalan, American 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 application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and offers the following recommendation. The applicant is requesting authorization to obtain for scientific research up to 500 one-gram samples from manatee skeletal material archived at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Mammal Pathobiology Laboratory in St. Petersburg, Florida, and at museums and institutions nationwide. The material has been obtained from the carcasses of salvaged manatees by personnel from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and archived specifically for research and display purposes. The applicant proposes to use stable isotope analysis to determine the source of nitrogen assimilated in the bones and whether there is a trend suggesting nitrogen pollution.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service issue the requested permit, provided that the applicant maintain and include in his annual report to the Service detailed records indicating the number of samples collected and the names of the laboratories and institutions from which they were collected.

The Commission believes that the activities for which it has recommended approval are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and other applicable laws.

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