



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

15 January 2010

Mr. P. Michael Payne, Chief
Permits, Conservation, and Education Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225

Re: Permit Application No. 15153
(Dolphin Quest Hawaii)

Dear Mr. Payne:

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. Dolphin Quest Hawaii is seeking authorization to import two captive-born adult male bottlenose dolphins from its sister facility, Dolphin Quest Bermuda, to its facility in Waikoloa, Hawaii, for purposes of public display.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the requested permit, provided that—

- the Service determines that the applicant's program for education or conservation is consistent with the professionally recognized standards of the public display community; and
- the applicant be required to obtain all necessary permits under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora before importing the animals.

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.

Please contact me if you or your staff has any questions concerning this recommendation.

Sincerely,

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

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Barbara Kohn, D.V.M.