



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

6 October 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. 15654
(George Church, Ph.D., Harvard University)

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. The Marine Mammal Commission offers the following recommendation.

The applicant is requesting authorization to acquire and maintain frozen cells (whale lung and skin fibroblasts) extracted from tissues previously collected from stranded bowhead whales. The cells currently are maintained by John Wise, Ph.D., under Permit No. 1008-1637-02. The applicant proposes to sequence the DNA (genome) and RNA (transcriptome) of the cells.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the requested permit.

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 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