



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

26 April 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, Virginia 22203

Re: Permit Application No. PRT-03086A
(Robert F. Rockwell, American Museum of Natural History)

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.

RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service issue the requested permit subject to the requirement that the applicant obtain all necessary permits under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) before importing the samples.

The applicant is requesting authorization to collect and import annually from Canada up to 500 hair samples and 500 scat samples from polar bears to study the ecology, genetic structure, habitat use, and diet of the western Hudson Bay polar bear population. The samples would be collected along transects and from vacant day beds and dens over a five-year period.

It appears that all of the samples to be imported would be taken in accordance with Canadian laws. This is something that will presumably be confirmed for each group of samples by Canada through its issuance of CITES export permits.

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