



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

17 May 2013

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. 03132B
(SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc.)

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. SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc., is requesting authorization to import one walrus from The Netherlands.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service issue the permit, as requested.

RATIONALE

SeaWorld is requesting authorization to import one female captive-born walrus from the Dolfinarium Harderwijk in Harderwijk, The Netherlands, in September 2013 for public display. The walrus would be transported by truck and aircraft from Harderwijk to Orlando, Florida, within a 24-hour timeframe. SeaWorld Orlando can accommodate the additional walrus without exceeding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's standards regarding space limitations. SeaWorld (1) is open to the public on a regularly scheduled basis with access that is not limited or restricted other than by charging an admission fee, (2) offers an educational program based on professionally recognized standards, and (3) holds Exhibitor's License 58-C-0077, issued by the Department of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act. All requirements under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Animal Welfare Act, Lacey Act, and the International Air Transport Association live animal regulations also would be met during the transport of the walrus. The attending veterinarian would examine the walrus and issue a health certificate within 10 days of transport. For all these reasons, the Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service issue the permit, as requested.

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