



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

23 February 2011

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

Re: Permit Application No. 14259  
(Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture)

Dear Mr. Payne:

The Marine Mammal Commission, in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced permit request 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 import, export, analyze, and archive an unspecified number of specimens or parts of all marine mammal species under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service for the purpose of archiving, scientific exchange, and scientific research. The Burke Museum is a repository for specimens and carcasses of marine mammals salvaged by the National Marine Fisheries Service's stranding networks and other agencies, including the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed activities involve no collection, harassment, or interaction of any kind with living marine mammals and pertain only to the acquisition, loan, import, or export of specimens or parts legally obtained or legally accessioned. The applicant states that the primary use of its collection is by scientific researchers although specimens also are used for educational purposes and incidental public display. The permit is requested for five years.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

- 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 or exporting any marine mammal parts;
- the applicant maintain detailed records indicating the source of each specimen and the circumstances under which it was collected; and
- the applicant periodically provide reports to the Service sufficient to demonstrate that each specimen was taken in accordance with the laws of the country of origin, was not taken in violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act or other applicable U.S. laws, and is being used only for bona fide scientific purposes, and incidental educational and public display purposes.

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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,



Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director