



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

10 March 2015

Ms. Jolie Harrison, Chief
Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225

Re: Permit Application No. 19293
(Dolphin World Productions Ltd)

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The Marine Mammal Commission (the 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 MMPA). Dolphin World Productions Ltd (DWP) is requesting authorization to conduct filming activities on bottlenose dolphins in Florida

DWP is requesting authorization to photograph and videotape bottlenose dolphins mud-ring feeding in Florida Bay during a 30-day period between 20 May and 1 September 2015. Individuals of any age class and either sex could be harassed. DWP would use the footage for a documentary describing, from the perspective of a dolphin, the ecological balance needed to maintain a coral reef.

Filmmakers would use high-definition video and still cameras to film and photograph the dolphins. Filming would occur from a helicopter and a small vessel¹. Ms. Laura Engleby would serve as an on-site advisor to DWP and a vessel operator. If any signs of disturbance from the aircraft are observed, the aircraft either would leave the area or fly at a higher altitude. In addition, the vessel operator would approach, at an idle, from behind and slightly parallel to the dolphins. If an animal were to approach them, they would put the engine in neutral. Any sudden changes in speed or vessel movements would be avoided, as would be maneuvering the vessel between the dolphins and the mud bank. If any signs of disturbance (e.g., chuffing, abrupt changes in direction, tail slapping, changes in behavior, etc.) from the vessel are observed, the vessel would move away slowly and seek another group of dolphins to film. Because of the precautionary manner in which DWP proposes to conduct the filming activities, the Commission recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the permit, as requested.

¹ Including from a pole camera underwater.

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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 MMPA. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca J. Lent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.
Executive Director