



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

15 October 2009

Ms. Nadene G. Kennedy
Permit Office, Room 755
Office of Polar Programs
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

By notice in the *Federal Register* dated 15 September 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 47277), your office requested comments on a permit modification request from Robert A. Garrott, Ph.D., seeking authorization under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 to attach temporarily temperature-logging tags on Weddell seal pups for scientific research purposes.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the National Science Foundation approve the requested permit modification. The Commission notes that the permit holder has obtained the necessary authorization for the planned activities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (see the enclosed 20 July 2009 letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service and amended Permit No. 1032-1917 issued by the Service on 2 September 2009). Consistent with the Commission's recommendation, the amended permit requires that the permit holder terminate research involving temperature-logging flipper tags at the end of the 2009 field season and that continued use of such tags be contingent upon further authorization from the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. P. Michael Payne