



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

15 March 2016

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. 18978
(Pam Miller, Alaska Community
Action on Toxics)

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). Ms. Miller is requesting authorization to receive, possess, and export samples from marine mammals during a five-year period.

Ms. Miller proposes to receive, possess, and export samples¹ from up to eight minke whales, ringed seals, bearded seals, and ribbon seals and up to nine bowhead whales and spotted seals each year. Samples could originate from adult animals of either sex. The objective is to investigate concentrations of polybrominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorinated compounds in subsistence-hunted marine mammals. The samples would originate from various Yupik hunters and households on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, and would be analyzed in Canada.

The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the permit, as requested. 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".

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.
Executive Director

¹ Including organs, muscle, blubber, and rendered oils.