



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

25 May 2016

Mr. Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief
Branch of Permits, MS: IA
Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803

Re: Permit Application No. 78234B
(Natural History Museum of
Los Angeles County)

Dear Mr. Van Norman:

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). The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM) is requesting authorization to receive, possess, import, and export samples from eight marine mammal species under the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) jurisdiction for purposes of scientific research during a five-year period—permit 717015 authorized the same activities.

NHM proposes to receive, possess, import, and export samples¹ from eight species of marine mammals taken legally worldwide. The samples would originate from (1) animals killed during subsistence hunts, (2) stranded animals, (3) captive animals, and (4) wild animals that were collected by permitted researchers. Samples also could be obtained from other museums as long as those samples were collected legally. NHM's marine mammal collection is the second largest in the world and the archived samples support a wide variety of scientific activities. The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that FWS 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 whole or parts of carcasses, tissues, and skeletal remains.