



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

5 July 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. 18769  
(SeaWorld, LLC)

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). SeaWorld is requesting authorization to permanently maintain up to six non-releasable Guadalupe fur seals during a five-year period—the same activities were authorized under permit 14186.

SeaWorld proposes to permanently maintain up to six<sup>1</sup> non-releasable Guadalupe fur seals of either sex and any age class under sections 109(h) and 112(c) of the MMPA and section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act. Guadalupe fur seals deemed non-releasable after rehabilitation at stranding network facilities may be maintained at SeaWorld at the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Office of Protected Resources and Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program. Transport and maintenance of all fur seals would be conducted in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act<sup>2</sup>.

The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that NMFS 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

<sup>1</sup> Currently, one female and two male Guadalupe fur seals are maintained at SeaWorld.

<sup>2</sup> Including holding an exhibitor's license.