



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

29 August 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. 20532
(Stephen Trumble, Ph.D.,
Baylor University)

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). Dr. Trumble is requesting to import, receive, and possess samples from seven cetacean species during a five-year period—the same activities were authorized under permit 17157.

Dr. Trumble is proposing to import, receive, and possess earplugs and/or baleen from blue, minke, humpback, gray, bowhead, fin and sperm whales of any age and both sexes. Samples would originate from various museums worldwide¹, dead stranded animals in foreign countries, and subsistence-hunted bowhead whales in Alaska. The purpose of the research is to (1) investigate the chronological accumulation of contaminant and hormone concentrations in individual whales and (2) investigate individual- and population-level exposure to those contaminants and resulting hormone concentrations.

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 samples obtained during British (1909-1955) and Spanish (1951-1985) whaling activities.