



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

13 March 2017

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. 16609  
(Zoological Society of San Diego)

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). Zoological Society of San Diego (the Zoological Society) is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and export samples from cetaceans and pinnipeds during a five-year period.

The Zoological Society proposes to import, receive, possess, and export samples from up to 30 individuals of each cetacean and pinniped species<sup>1</sup>. Samples<sup>2</sup> would be obtained from (1) animals involved in permitted research activities and stranded<sup>3</sup> and captive animals in the United States and abroad and (2) animals that have been killed incidental to legal fishery operations abroad. The objective is to establish and bank cell lines to be used in chromosome analyses, transcriptomics, induced pluripotent stem cell development, and high-quality de novo genome sequencing.

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

---

<sup>1</sup> And sea turtles as well.

<sup>2</sup> Including but not limited to skin, blubber, eye, trachea, gonads, lung, heart, placenta, and/or umbilical cord.

<sup>3</sup> Including those animals at rehabilitation facilities.