



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

21 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. 21155  
(Karina Amaral,  
Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul)

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. Amaral is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and export samples from Atlantic spotted dolphins during a five-month period.

Ms. Amaral proposes to import, receive, possess, and export extracted DNA samples from up to 118 individual Atlantic spotted dolphins. Those samples were obtained from biopsy samples collected during permitted research and from stranded animals in Brazil. The objective is to investigate the population structure of Atlantic spotted dolphins with emphasis on dolphins in the southwestern Atlantic Ocean and their associated habitat preferences using ecological and genomic approaches.

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