



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

8 May 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. 21199  
(BBC, Natural History Unit)

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). BBC proposes to film killer whales in Alaska for the *Wild Alaska Live* television series during summer 2017.

BBC could take up to 550 killer whales of either sex and any age class by Level B harassment during filming activities<sup>1</sup>. Filming activities would occur during a 13-day period near Seward and Juneau, Alaska. Dall's porpoises and Pacific white-sided dolphins also could be harassed incidental to the filming activities. Dr. Heidi Pearson and Mr. Dan Olsen would serve as advisors. If any of the filming activities cause an adverse impact (e.g., changes in direction, prolonged diving, and behavioral changes including with female-calf pairs), the distance to the animal(s) or altitude would be increased. If the impact persists, the activities would cease.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Filming would be conducted from a small boat (including using a pole camera) and helicopter, and a dipping hydrophone would be used to record vocalizations.