



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

12 June 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. 21114  
(The Whale Museum)

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). The Whale Museum (the Museum) is requesting to conduct research activities on cetaceans during a five-year period—permit 16160 authorized similar activities.

The Museum proposes to conduct year-round vessel-based surveys primarily for southern resident killer whales in the waters of Haro Strait, Washington, and Vancouver, British Columbia (see the take table). The purpose of the research is to document vessel use and characterize marine mammal responses to those vessels as part of the Museum's Soundwatch Boater Education program. The Museum would use various measures to minimize impacts to cetaceans and would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's standard permit conditions as well. Thus, 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