



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

13 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. 20605
(Robin Baird, Ph.D.,
Cascadia Research Collective)

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. Baird is seeking to renew his permit to conduct research on cetaceans in the Atlantic¹ and Pacific Oceans during a five-year period—permits 15330 and 17086 authorized similar activities.

Dr. Baird proposes to conduct research on numerous species of cetaceans in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans year-round. The purpose of the research is to investigate (1) population structure and life history parameters, (2) foraging ecology, (3) social organization and behavior, (4) movement patterns and habitat use, (5) disease and health, and (6) responses to anthropogenic activities including sound-related and fisheries activities. Researchers would harass, observe/track, photograph/videotape, record acoustically, sample, and/or instrument, numerous cetaceans of both sexes and various age classes (see the take tables and application for specifics). Dr. Baird would use various measures to minimize impacts to cetaceans and also would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions. Cascadia Research Collective's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee is in the process of reviewing the research protocols. The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and recommends that NMFS 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 the Gulf of Mexico.