



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

5 July 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. 21143
(Jeremy Kiszka, Ph.D.,
Florida International University)

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. Kiszka is seeking to conduct research on bottlenose dolphins in Florida during a five-year period—permit 16314 authorized the same activities.

Dr. Kiszka proposes to conduct research year-round on bottlenose dolphins in the Everglades National Park (ENP). The purpose of the research is to (1) examine spatiotemporal variation in trophic interactions of the dolphins and (2) compare trophic interactions and genetics of dolphins in ENP with other locations in south Florida. Researchers would harass, observe, photograph/videotape, and biopsy sample bottlenose dolphins of both sexes and various age classes (see the take tables and application for specifics). Dr. Kiszka would use various measures to minimize impacts to the dolphins and also would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions. Florida International University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee has reviewed and approved 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