



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

5 July 2017

Mr. Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief
Branch of Permits, MS: IA
Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803

Re: Permit Application No. 29633C
(Offspring Films)

Dear Mr. Van Norman:

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). Offspring Films proposes to film northern and southern sea otters in Alaska and California during a two-year period for a documentary to be aired on Sky Television.

Offspring Films could harass northern and southern sea otters of either sex and any age class by Level B harassment during filming activities¹ during a 15-day period (see the application and take tables for specifics). Personnel from Texas A&M University, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) would serve as advisors. The filmmakers would implement various measures to minimize impacts to the sea otters and also would be required to abide by the FWS's standard permit conditions. The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and recommends that FWS 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 Filming could be conducted from shore or a small boat.