



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

3 August 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 Amendment Application No. 16609
(Zoological Society of San Diego)

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 amendment application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA). Zoological Society of San Diego (the Zoological Society) is seeking to amend its permit to import, receive, possess, and export samples from cetaceans and pinnipeds¹—the permit expires on 30 April 2022. The purpose is to establish and bank cell lines to be used in chromosome analyses, transcriptomics, induced pluripotent stem cell development, and high-quality de novo genome sequencing.

The Zoological Society is requesting to increase the number of individuals of each species from which the samples² could originate from 30 to 60. The purpose of the amendment is to identify and quantify potential endocrine disrupting compounds in marine mammal tissues. The Commission believes that the proposed amendment is consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the permit amendment, provided that the current permit conditions remain in effect.

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 And sea turtles as well.

² Including the addition of muscle, liver, kidney, and teeth.