



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

23 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 Application No. 21059  
(Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve)

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). Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (Glacier Bay) is seeking to renew its permit to conduct research on cetaceans in Alaska during a five-year period—permit 15844 authorized similar activities.

Glacier Bay proposes to conduct research on humpback, killer, minke and gray whales in southeastern Alaska, primarily from April through November. The purpose of the research is to provide information on cetacean population status, ecology, and behavior to the National Park Service to enhance resource management of waters in southeastern Alaska. Researchers would harass, observe, photograph/videotape, record acoustically, and sample numerous cetaceans of both sexes and various age classes (see the take tables and application for specifics). Glacier Bay would employ various measures to minimize impacts to the cetacean species and also would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions. Glacier Bay's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee would review and provide approval of the biopsy sampling protocols prior to researchers conducting the sampling. 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