



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

24 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. 21199
(BBC Worldwide Americas, Inc.)

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). BBC Worldwide Americas, Inc. (BBC) proposes to film Weddell seals in Antarctica for the *Seven Worlds* television series during October–December 2017.

BBC could take up to eight female-pup pairs by Level B harassment during filming activities¹ near McMurdo Sound, Antarctica (see the application and Take Table for specifics). Non-target Weddell seals also could be harassed incidental to the filming activities. Dr. Jay Rotella and Mr. Rob Robbins would serve as advisors and/or coordinators. BBC would use various measures to minimize impacts to the seals and also would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions. The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and recommends that the 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 Filming would be conducted on the ice, underwater via divers, and using a drone. Vocalizations would be recorded as well.