



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

25 September 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. 21422  
(James Lloyd-Smith, Ph.D.,  
University of California Los Angeles)

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. Lloyd-Smith is seeking to renew his permit to conduct research on California sea lions along the U.S. West Coast during a five-year period—permit 17115 authorized similar activities.

Dr. Lloyd-Smith proposes to conduct research on California sea lions off California and Oregon, primarily in spring and fall. The purpose of the research is to investigate various aspects of *Leptospira* spp. outbreaks. Researchers would harass, capture/restrain, disentangle, photograph, mark, sample<sup>1</sup>, and/or instrument California sea lions of both sexes and various age classes (see the take table and application for specifics). Non-target California sea lions and other pinniped species could be harassed incidental to the proposed activities. Dr. Lloyd-Smith requested up to two mortalities<sup>2</sup> per year, not to exceed eight mortalities during the permit duration. Researchers would use various measures to minimize impacts to pinnipeds and also would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions. University of California Los Angeles' 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

<sup>1</sup> Including dead stranded sea lions.

<sup>2</sup> Either unintentional or intentional mortality (i.e., euthanasia for humaneness purposes).