



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

3 October 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. 21397
(Burke Museum)

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). Burke Museum is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and export samples from marine mammals during a five-year period—permit 14259 authorized the same activities.

Burke Museum proposes to import, receive, possess, and export samples¹ from up to 10 pinnipeds (except walruses) and 10 cetaceans per year. Samples could be obtained from various sources (see the application for details). The purpose is to enhance understanding of marine mammals by conducting in-house research and by providing specimens to researchers. The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service 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 Including, but not limited to, tissue, bone, teeth, baleen, skin, and vibrissae.