



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

30 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. 21431
(Gregory Bossart, V.M.D., Ph.D.,
Georgia Aquarium)

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. Bossart is seeking to renew his permit to conduct research on bottlenose dolphins in Florida during a five-year period—permit 14352 authorized the same activities.

Dr. Bossart proposes to conduct health assessments on bottlenose dolphins in Indian River Lagoon and/or Matanzas River, Florida, in summer of each year. The purpose of the research is to investigate disease and health of two populations of bottlenose dolphins. Researchers would harass, observe/track, capture/restrain, photograph/videotape, conduct procedures on, sample, and/or mark up to 40 dolphins per year of either population (see the take tables and application for specifics). Dr. Bossart would use various measures to minimize impacts to cetaceans and also would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions. Georgia Aquarium's 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