



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

21 November 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. 21315  
(Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

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). Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) is requesting authorization to collect, import, receive, and/or possess samples from cetaceans and pinnipeds during a five-year period.

ADFG proposes to collect<sup>1</sup>, import, receive, possess, and/or export various samples from up to 1,000 pinnipeds and 500 cetaceans per year. Samples could be obtained from marine mammals (1) killed during legal subsistence hunts, (2) held in research and public display facilities, (3) captured during permitted research activities, and (4) killed incidentally in legal commercial fishing operations in the United States and in foreign countries. Samples also could be obtained from marine mammals stranded dead or alive in foreign countries. The purpose is to assess population status and demographics, stock structure, foraging ecology, and disease and health. 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

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<sup>1</sup> Samples would be collected directly by ADFG only from subsistence-hunted animals and dead-stranded animals listed under the Endangered Species Act in the United States.