



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

11 December 2017

Mr. Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief
Branch of Permits, MS: IA
Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803

Re: Permit Application No. 21339
(Kerri Smith,
University of Texas at El Paso)

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). Ms. Smith is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples from 14 species of cetaceans during a five-year period.

Ms. Smith proposes to import, receive, possess, and/or export various samples¹ from up to 14 species of cetaceans. Samples would be obtained from museum collections in the United States and in foreign countries and include animals that were dead-stranded or killed incidentally in fishing operations in the United States and in foreign countries. The purpose is to elucidate life history characteristics of the Sowerby's beaked whale and improve techniques to utilize stable isotope analyses in marine mammal studies. 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 bone, baleen, teeth, and muscle.