



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

22 December 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. 21295  
(Eye of the Whale)

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). Eye of the Whale is seeking to renew its permit to conduct research on humpback whales in Alaska during a five-year period—permit 16919 authorized the same activities.

Eye of the Whale proposes to conduct research on humpback whales primarily in Prince William Sound year-round. The purpose of the research is to investigate (1) abundance and distribution, (2) demographics and social structure, (3) vital rates, and (4) foraging ecology. Researchers would harass, observe, and photograph humpback whales of any age class and each sex (see the take tables and application for specifics). Eye of the Whale 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. 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