



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

7 March 2018

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. 21238
(Center for Whale Research)

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). Center for Whale Research (CWR) is seeking to renew its permit to conduct research on marine mammals in the eastern North Pacific Ocean during a five-year period—permit 15569 authorized similar activities.

CWR proposes to conduct research on numerous species of marine mammals, primarily killer whales, from California to Alaska year-round. The purpose of the research is to investigate (1) population structure and life history parameters, (2) abundance and distribution, (3) movement patterns and habitat use, (4) social behavior, and (5) body condition and overall health of primarily killer whales but other species as well. Researchers would harass, observe/track, photograph/videotape, record acoustically, and/or sample numerous marine mammal species of both sexes and various age classes (see the take table and application for specifics). CWR would use various measures to minimize impacts to marine mammals 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 "Peter O. Thomas".

Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D.,
Executive Director