



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

14 May 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. 22049
(Living Planet Productions/Silverback Films)

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). Living Planet Productions/Silverback Films (Silverback) is requesting authorization to conduct filming activities on common bottlenose dolphins in Florida through September 2018—similar activities were authorized under permits 19293 and 20324¹.

Silverback is requesting authorization to photograph and videotape bottlenose dolphins mud-ring feeding in Florida Bay during a 30-day period. Individuals of any age class and either sex could be harassed. Silverback plans to obtain footage for Netflix's and World Wildlife Fund's *Our Planet* documentary. Ms. Laura Engleby and Ms. Joy Hampp would serve as on-site advisors. The filmmakers would implement various measures to minimize impacts on the bottlenose dolphins 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

¹ Poor weather hindered the filmmakers from obtaining the specified footage under both previous permits.