



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

9 July 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. 21329
(John Wise, Ph.D.,
University of Louisville)

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). Dr. Wise is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples from cetaceans during a five-year period—permit 16305 authorized the same activities.

Dr. Wise proposes to import, receive, possess, and/or export various samples from numerous cetaceans each year (see the take table). Samples could be obtained from marine mammals (1) killed during legal subsistence hunts in the United States and in foreign countries, (2) maintained in public display and research facilities in the United States and in foreign countries, (3) captured during permitted research activities in the United States and in foreign countries, (4) stranded dead or alive in foreign countries. The purpose is to (1) develop cell lines and (2) investigate various contaminants, pathogens, and immune function related to marine mammal and human health. The Commission recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the permit, as requested.

The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA. 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