



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

11 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. 22272
(Shaw Institute)

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). Shaw Institute is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples from cetaceans during a five-year period.

Shaw Institute proposes to import, receive, possess, and/or export various samples from numerous marine mammal species each year (see the take table). Samples could be obtained from marine mammals killed during legal subsistence hunts or legal fishing activities and stranded dead in foreign countries. The purpose is to investigate contaminants and impacts of climate change on various cetaceans and pinnipeds inhabiting the Atlantic Ocean and Baltic and Arctic Seas. 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