



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

December 10, 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 Amendment Application No. 20532
(Stephen Trumble, Ph.D., Baylor University)

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 amendment application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA). Dr. Trumble is authorized to import, receive, and possess samples from seven cetacean species during a five-year period—permit 20532 expires on 1 November 2021. The purpose of the research is to (1) investigate the chronological accumulation of contaminant and hormone concentrations in individual whales and (2) investigate individual- and population-level exposure to those contaminants and resulting hormone concentrations.

Dr. Trumble proposes to import, receive, and possess samples from additional cetacean species, including sei, Bryde's, North Atlantic right, North Pacific right, and southern right whales and unidentified cetacean species. Samples would originate from marine mammals that (1) were killed during legal subsistence hunts in the United States and foreign countries and (2) stranded dead or alive or that died during rehabilitation in foreign countries. Samples also could be obtained from permitted researchers or collections housed at academic, federal, state or other institutions worldwide. The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the permit amendment, provided that the current permit conditions remain in effect.

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