



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

4 March 2019

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. 22141
(Samuel Wasser, Ph.D.,
University of Washington)

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. Wasser is requesting authorization to conduct research on cetaceans in the Salish Sea during a five-year period—permit 17344 authorized the same activities.

The purpose of the research is to investigate (1) nutritional stress, (2) circulating contaminant concentrations, and (3) reproductive parameters of six species or stocks of cetaceans. Dr. Wasser would harass, observe, photograph, and collect fecal samples from numerous individual cetaceans of either sex and any age class each year (see the take table for specifics). He would use various measures to minimize impacts on the whales 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.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter O. Thomas".

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