



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

12 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. 22723  
(Sean Todd, Ph.D.,  
College of the Atlantic)

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. Todd is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples from cetaceans and pinnipeds during a five-year period. Samples could be obtained from (1) dead stranded animals in the United States<sup>1</sup>, (2) dead stranded animals in Canada, (3) animals killed incidentally in commercial fisheries in the United States, and (4) other permitted researchers in the United States and in foreign countries. The purpose of the research is to investigate contaminant concentrations in cetaceans and pinnipeds in the Gulf of Maine and adjacent Canadian waters. The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service 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

---

<sup>1</sup> Obtained under a separate authorization.