



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

13 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. 22311
(David Johnston, Ph.D.,
Duke 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 application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA). Dr. Johnston is requesting authorization to receive and possess samples from northern fur seals during a five-year period. Samples could be obtained from animals killed during subsistence hunts in the Pribilof Islands¹. The purpose of the research is to develop new tag attachment methods, thereby minimizing handling time and potentially the need to immobilize pinnipeds. 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

¹ Samples could also be obtained from dead stranded animals in the United States under a separate authorization.