



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

22 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. 22387
(Benjamin Hubert, Ph.D.,
New York Genome Center)

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. Hubert is requesting authorization to import, receive, and possess biopsy and extracted DNA samples from humpback whales during a five-year period. Samples would be obtained from live whales during permitted research activities in Australia¹. The purpose of the research is to investigate endocrinology and weight regulation in humpback whales. 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 are authorized to be collected under Griffith University Animal Ethics Permit number ENV/10/15/AEC.