



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

2 April 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. 22479
(Jose Pablo Vazquez-Medina, Ph.D.,
University of California at Berkeley)

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. Vazquez-Medina proposed to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples and cell cultures from cetaceans and pinnipeds during a five-year period. Samples could be obtained from marine mammals (1) collected during permitted research activities, (2) killed incidentally in commercial fisheries, (3) killed during legal subsistence hunts, or (4) held at public display or research facilities in the United States and in foreign countries. Samples also could be obtained from dead-stranded animals in foreign countries. The purpose of the research is to investigate the effects of stress and contaminants on cellular response in marine mammals. 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