



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

24 June 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 21482
(Dan Engelhaupt, Ph.D.,
HDR EOC)

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. Engelhaupt is requesting authorization to conduct research on marine mammals in the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, and Southern Oceans during a five-year period—permit 16239 authorized similar activities.

The purpose of the research is to investigate (1) abundance and distribution, (2) foraging ecology and diet, (3) behavioral ecology, (4) indications of stress, (5) reproductive status, (6) stock structure and life history parameters, and (7) habitat use of marine mammals. The research also aims to monitor behavioral responses of marine mammals to various human activities. Dr. Engelhaupt would harass, observe, photograph/videotape¹, sample², instrument³, passively record, and/or conduct acoustic playbacks on numerous cetacean and pinniped species of any age class and either sex (see the application and take tables for specifics). He also requests authorization to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples from cetaceans. Dr. Engelhaupt would use various measures to minimize impacts on marine mammals and would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions. His Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee currently is reviewing the proposed research protocols—the approval is expected to be received within the month.

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. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

¹ Including photogrammetry and underwater photography/videography.

² Including biopsy samples, exhaled air, feces, and sloughed skin.

³ Including suction-cup, dart, and/or implantable tags.

Ms. Jolie Harrison
24 June 2019
Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter O. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

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