



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

22 July 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. 22435
(Northwest Fisheries Science Center,
Marine Forensic Lab)

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). The Northwest Fisheries Science Center's Marine Forensic Lab (MFL) is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess and/or export samples from pinnipeds and cetaceans during a five-year period—permit 17757 authorized similar activities¹.

MFL could obtain samples from marine mammals (1) captured or sampled 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 live- or dead-stranded animals in foreign countries. In addition, samples could be obtained from museum collections or transferred from law enforcement. The purposes of the research are to contribute to baseline genetic information and develop new methods to identify taxonomic levels of marine mammal species. 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 The previous permit was held by the National Ocean Service.