



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

16 August 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. 22851
(Sea Life Park Hawaii)

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). Sea Life Park Hawaii is requesting authorization to maintain four non-releasable Hawaiian monk seals of any age class and either sex during a five-year period. Seals would be cared for and maintained for enhancement purposes under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act and maintained under the authority under which they were brought into captivity under the MMPA¹. Sea Life Park Hawaii holds exhibitor's license 95-C-0001 issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service under the Animal Welfare Act. In addition, the facility would abide by standards set forth by the International Air Transport Association for transporting the seals.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter O. Thomas".

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

¹ This could include either section 109(h)/112(c) for stranded animals or section 104(c) for enhancement or research purposes.