



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

29 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. 22884
(Dr. Mark Baumgartner,
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

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. Baumgartner is requesting authorization to conduct research on North Atlantic right whales along the U.S. east coast during a five-year period. The purpose of the research is to investigate abundance and distribution of right whale prey species. Dr. Baumgartner would harass and observe numerous adult and juvenile right whales of either sex (see the application and take tables for specifics). He would use various measures to minimize impacts on the whales and would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions.

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 regarding the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

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

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