



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

9 September 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. 23092
(Scott Baker, Ph.D.,
Oregon State University)

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. Scott Baker is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and export samples from pinnipeds and cetaceans during a five-year period. Samples could be obtained from marine mammals (1) captured or sampled during permitted research activities, (2) held at research or public display facilities, (3) killed during legal subsistence hunts, or (4) killed incidentally in commercial fisheries in the United States and in foreign countries. Samples also could be obtained from animals that stranded live or dead or that died during rehabilitation in foreign countries. In addition, samples could be obtained from museum collections. The purpose of the research is to investigate (1) taxonomy, (2) genetic diversity, (3) population structure, (4) abundance, and (5) distribution of 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