



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

5 November 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. 23023
(Robert Wayne, Ph.D.,
University of California at Los Angeles)

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. Wayne is requesting authorization to import, receive, and/or possess DNA samples from fin whales during a five-year period. Samples would be obtained from live whales during permitted research activities in Chile¹ and other countries. The purpose of the research is to investigate the genome-wide effects of population reductions and inbreeding in fin whales. 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 Samples are authorized to be collected by Dr. María José Pérez under permit numbers RES 1502/2013, RES 1803/2015 and RES 157/2017 as issued by the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Economy of Chile.