



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. 23467
(Wild Space Productions)

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). Wild Space Productions is requesting authorization to conduct filming activities on pinnipeds in Monterey Bay for a Netflix series highlighting wildlife in national parks and marine sanctuaries around the world.

Wild Space Productions is requesting authorization to film¹ Northern elephant seals and California sea lions in Monterey Bay for four weeks between January 2020 and February 2021. Individuals of any age class and either sex could be harassed. Harbor seals and Steller sea lions also could be harassed incidental to the filming activities. The filmmakers would implement various measures to minimize impacts on marine mammals and also 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 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 Including filming on land and with unmanned aircraft systems.