



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

13 January 2020

Dr. Mary Cogliano, Chief  
Branch of Permits, MS: IA  
Division of Management Authority  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803

Re: Permit Application No. 16657D  
(SeaWorld of California)

Dear Dr. Cogliano:

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). SeaWorld of California is requesting authorization to import one female, captive-born Pacific walrus from Kamogawa SeaWorld in Kamogawa, Japan, for the purpose of public display. SeaWorld of California (1) is open to the public on a regularly scheduled basis with access that is not limited or restricted other than by charging an admission fee, (2) offers an educational program based on professionally recognized standards, and (3) holds an exhibitor's license<sup>1</sup> 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 walrus from Japan. The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and recommends that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issue the permit, as requested<sup>2</sup>. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendations.

Sincerely,

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibitor License 93-C-0069 has been issued to SeaWorld of California.

<sup>2</sup> The Commission greatly appreciates that SeaWorld of California took the initiative to submit a revised application that adequately addressed all of the questions in FWS's 2017 application instructions, even though FWS did not request that SeaWorld use the 2017 instructions or submit a revised application. The final revised application clearly indicated the activities that would be authorized by FWS under the permit.