



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

29 January 2020

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 Amendment 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 amendment application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA). Wild Space Productions is authorized to film Northern elephant seals and California sea lions in Monterey Bay for four weeks between January 2020 and February 2021 for a Netflix series highlighting wildlife in national parks and marine sanctuaries around the world.

Wild Space Productions requested several amendments to its permit. These include adding (1) use of vessel-based filming and underwater filming¹ and (2) five cetacean species² upon which the requested and currently authorized filming activities may be conducted. In addition, Wild Space Productions requested to increase the number of takes of species authorized under its current permit (see the amendment application for details). 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 amendment, contingent on inclusion of the current permit conditions.

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 With divers, a polecam, bow cam and/or tow cam.

² Including gray and killer whales and Risso's, Pacific white-sided and common dolphins.