



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

27 March 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 Application No. 21418
(Marine Mammal Lab)

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). Marine Mammal Lab (MML) is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples from cetaceans and pinnipeds during a five-year period—permit 18638 authorized similar activities.

MML proposed to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples of any marine mammal species under NMFS jurisdiction taken legally worldwide. Samples could be obtained from marine mammals (1) killed during legal subsistence hunts, (2) held in public display or research facilities, (3) captured during permitted research activities, and (4) killed incidentally in legal commercial fishing operations in the United States and in foreign countries. Samples also could be obtained from marine mammals stranded dead or alive or that died in rehabilitation in foreign countries. The purpose of the research is to provide information on marine mammal biology and annual levels of marine mammal bycatch.

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