



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

31 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. 23807
(Plimsoll 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). Plimsoll Productions is requesting authorization to conduct filming activities on common bottlenose dolphins in South Carolina for a wildlife series documenting behavioral adaptations of species to be available for online streaming in 2022.

Plimsoll Productions proposed to film¹ and passively record bottlenose dolphins off the coast of South Carolina during a 35-day period. Individuals of any age class and either sex could be harassed. Dr. Adam Fox of the University of Georgia and Lauren Rust of the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network would serve as off-site advisors. 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 on land, from a vessel, underwater with a polecam, and with unmanned aircraft systems.