



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

10 June 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. 21585
(Oregon State University)

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). Oregon State University (OSU) is authorized to conduct research on numerous cetacean species worldwide during a five-year period—permit 21585 expires on 31 December 2023. The purpose of the research is to investigate (1) distribution, (2) movement patterns, and (3) foraging ecology of large whales. Researchers are authorized to harass, observe/track, photograph/videotape, record acoustically, collect prey information, sample, and/or instrument numerous cetaceans of both sexes and various age classes.

OSU requested to (1) add 400 Level B harassment takes of humpback whales, and (2) make personnel changes (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.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

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

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