



# 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 Application No. 23922  
(University of California at San Francisco)

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). University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples from any cetacean species during a five-year period. UCSF could also establish and maintain cell lines from any imported sample. Samples could be obtained from other authorized persons or collections, captive marine mammals held in research or public display facilities, or killed during legal subsistence hunts or legal fishing activities in the United States and in foreign countries. Samples also could be obtained from animals that stranded alive or dead or died during rehabilitation in foreign countries. The purpose of the research is to investigate cetacean brain development, toxicity, neurological adaptations, and diversity across clades. 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, 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