



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

23 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. 23836
(Wildstar Films)

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). Wildstar Films is requesting authorization to conduct filming activities on common bottlenose dolphins in South Carolina for an upcoming National Geographic television series on the wildlife of the United States.

Wildstar Films proposed to film¹ bottlenose dolphins off the coast of South Carolina during a 14-day period. Individuals of any age class and either sex could be harassed. Lauren Rust of the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network would serve as an on-site advisor and Dr. Adam Fox of the University of Georgia has served as an off-site advisor. 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, and with unmanned aircraft systems.