



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

16 July 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. 23932  
(New York Genome Center)

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). New York Genome Center is requesting authorization to import, receive, and possess biopsy and extracted DNA samples from humpback whales during a five-year period<sup>1</sup>. Samples would be obtained from live humpback whales during permitted research activities in Australia<sup>2</sup>. The purpose of the research is to investigate endocrinology and weight regulation in humpback whales. 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

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<sup>1</sup> Permit 22387 previously held by Dr. Benjamin Hubert authorized the same activities, yet the Commission understands that Dr. Hubert has now left the New York Genome Center and his permit has been voided

<sup>2</sup> Samples are authorized to be collected under Griffith University Animal Ethics Permit number ENV/10/15/AEC.