



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

21 September 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. 23447
(Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums)

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). Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and/or export samples from cetaceans and pinnipeds during a five-year period—permit 17305 authorized similar activities.

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 basic biology and enhance the health of wild marine mammals and those in public display, research, or stranding facilities. 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