



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

19 August 2026

Mr. Trevor Spradlin, Supervisor
Directed Take Program
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. 29804
(New England Aquarium)

Dear Mr. Spradlin:

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 humaneness and *bona fide* criteria of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Commission believes that the proposed activities meet these requirements 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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