



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

8 March 2021

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. 23960
(Minnesota Zoo)

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). Minnesota Zoo is requesting authorization to maintain two non-releasable adult female Hawaiian monk seals during a five-year period. Seals would be cared for and maintained for enhancement purposes under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act and maintained under the authority of section 109(h)/112(c) of the MMPA for stranded animals under which they were brought into captivity. Minnesota Zoo holds exhibitor's license 41-C-0019 issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service under the Animal Welfare Act.

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