



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

18 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. 25500  
(University of Alaska,  
Museum of the North)

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). The University of Alaska's Museum of the North (UAM) is requesting authorization to collect, receive, possess, import, and export samples from marine mammals during a five-year period—permit 18727 authorized similar activities. The purpose of the request is to maintain a collection of marine mammal samples at UAM that are available on loan to qualified researchers for various marine mammal projects. Samples could originate from individuals of either sex and any age class from marine mammals (1) killed during legal U.S. or foreign subsistence hunts, (2) stranded alive or dead or that died during rehabilitation in foreign countries, (3) that died incidental to commercial fishing operations in the United States and foreign countries, (4) in captivity where samples were taken as a result of routine husbandry procedures or under separate permit, and (5) that were sampled by other authorized researchers involved in marine mammal research in the United States or abroad. Samples also could be exported to researchers and re-imported.

The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore 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