



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

24 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. 25520  
(BBC, Natural History Unit)

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). BBC is requesting authorization to conduct filming activities on common bottlenose dolphins in Florida for a wildlife series documenting adaptations of mammal species to environmental challenges, to be broadcast globally in 2024.

BBC proposed to film<sup>1</sup> off the coast of Florida during a 20-day period. Individuals of any age class and either sex could be harassed. Laura Engleby of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Southeast Regional Office would serve as a scientific advisor in the field. The filmmakers would implement various measures to minimize impacts on marine mammals and also would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions. 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

---

<sup>1</sup> Including topside from a vessel, underwater with a remotely operated vessel, and in the air with unmanned aircraft systems and a helicopter.