



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

8 March 2022

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. 25843
(Marine Life Studies)

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 humaneness and *bona fide* criteria of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA). The Commission believes that the proposed activities meet these requirements¹ 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

¹ The Commission understands that the National Marine Fisheries Services miscalculated the Level A harassment zones that informed the shut-down zones in Marine Life Sciences's application and that the zones will be revised for the final application and permit, if issued. Specifically, the shut-down zone for high-frequency cetaceans will increase from 91 to 142 m.