

7 July 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 Amendment Application No. 21476

(Lars Bejder, Ph.D.,

University of Hawaii at Manoa)

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 amendment 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 requirements and <u>recommends</u> that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the permit amendment, contingent on inclusion of the current permit conditions. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D.,

Peter o Thomas

Executive Director