

18 July 2022

Dr. Mary Cogliano, Chief Branch of Permits, MS: IA Division of Management Authority U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 5275 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803

Re: Permit Application No. 0046206

(North Slope Borough)

Dear Dr. Cogliano:

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 requirements and recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service issue the permit, as requested. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D.,

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Executive Director