

23 April 2024

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. 27342

(Heidi Pearson, Ph.D.,

University of Alaska Southeast)

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. <u>The Commission</u> believes that the proposed activities meet these requirements and <u>recommends</u> 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,

Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D., Executive Director

Peter o Thomas