



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

9 March 2026

Mr. Trevor Spradlin, Supervisor  
Directed Take Program  
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. 29070  
(University of Florida,  
Aquatic Animal Health Program)

Dear Mr. Spradlin:

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 Commission believes that the proposed activities meet these requirements 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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