



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

29 October 2014

Dr. Li Ling Hamady, ACA Permit Officer  
Permit Office, Room 755  
Office of Polar Programs  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Hamady:

On 23 October 2014 the National Science Foundation (NSF) published a notice (79 Fed. Reg. 63440) requesting comments on a permit application from Dr. Ari Friedlaender, Oregon State University. Dr. Friedlaender is seeking authorization under the Antarctic Conservation Act (the ACA) to conduct research on killer, humpback, minke, and Arnoux's beaked whales in Antarctica. The Marine Mammal Commission (the Commission), in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the permit request with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA) and the ACA.

Permits 14809 and 14856, issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the MMPA, authorize Dr. Friedlaender to conduct research on numerous species of whales in Antarctica. Dr. Friedlaender proposes to photograph, collect biopsy samples<sup>1</sup>, and satellite tag<sup>2</sup> killer, humpback, minke, and Arnoux's beaked whales in inshore waters of the Antarctic Peninsula from 1 January 2015 through 31 December 2018. The objectives of the research are to determine stock structure and investigate feeding ecology of whales that inhabit the nearshore waters of the Antarctic Peninsula. Dr. Friedlaender would import the samples into the United States to conduct genetic and stable isotope analyses and determine the sex of individuals. Further, Dr. Friedlaender would obtain the relevant authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora prior to importing the samples.

The Commission believes that the activities in the permit application are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and ACA and therefore recommends that NSF issue the ACA permit, as request. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca J. Lent".

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> Only juvenile and adult whales would be biopsy sampled.

<sup>2</sup> Only adult humpback whales would be satellite tagged.