



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

20 January 2015

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. 18662
(Allyson Hindle, Ph.D.,
Massachusetts General Hospital)

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 goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA). Dr. Hindle is requesting authorization to receive, possess, import, and export samples from marine mammals under the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) jurisdiction for purposes of scientific research during a five-year period.

Dr. Hindle proposes to receive, possess, import, and export samples from up to 200 cetaceans and 200 pinnipeds under NMFS jurisdiction each year. Those samples would be collected legally in the United States and foreign countries. The samples could originate from animals killed during subsistence hunts, animals killed incidental to legal commercial fishing operations, stranded animals, captive animals, and animals that are part of permitted research activities. Dr. Hindle proposes to investigate hypoxia tolerance and diving physiology of marine mammals. She would obtain the necessary authorizations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species prior to importing or exporting any sample.

The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that NMFS 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 "Rebecca J. Lent".

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.
Executive Director