



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

24 April 2014

Dr. Tammy Adams, Acting 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 Amendment No. 18016  
(Tamara McGuire, Ph.D.,  
LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc.)

Dear Dr. Adams:

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). On 3 May 2013, the National Marine Fisheries Service published a notice (78 Fed. Reg. 25954) regarding Dr. McGuire's application for a permit to conduct vessel-based surveys for beluga whales in Cook Inlet during a five-year period. The Commission commented on the original application in its 13 June 2013 letter. The Service is still in the process of reviewing that application.

Dr. McGuire now is requesting to include the harassment of up to 200 harbor seals per year incidental to the vessel-based surveys. She is not requesting any other amendments to her permit application.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Marine Mammal Commission again recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the permit, as requested.

The Commission believes that the activities for which it has recommended approval are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to comment on the amendment to Dr. McGuire's permit application. 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