



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

1 December 2014

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. 18638
(National Marine Mammal Laboratory)

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). The National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML) is requesting authorization to collect, 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—permit 13583 authorized similar activities.

NMML proposes to collect, receive, possess, import, and export samples of any species under NMFS jurisdiction taken legally worldwide. The samples could be collected (1) from beachcast animals, (2) from animals killed during subsistence hunts or killed incidentally in commercial fisheries, and (3) by permitted researchers under separate authorizations. The purpose of the research is to provide information on marine mammal biology and annual levels of marine mammal bycatch. NMML 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