



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

April 24, 2020

Peter Thomas, Ph.D.  
Marine Mammal Commission  
4340 East-West Highway, Room 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4498

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Marine Mammal Commission regarding your concerns over the solvency of Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Contingency Fund. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service recognizes the vital role of the Fund to support efficient and effective UME responses and investigations.

We agree on the importance of identifying mechanisms to continue supporting the UME Fund. We will explore additional avenues to supplement the Fund. We will also continue to accept and process donations from the general public to the Fund, in consultation with our partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I look forward to our continued collaboration and appreciate your dedication to and support of the UME Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Oliver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Chris" and "Oliver" being capitalized and prominent.

Chris Oliver

