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,

Chris Oliver