



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

8 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. 18727
(University of Alaska,
Museum of the North)

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 University of Alaska's Museum of the North (UAM) 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 14301 authorized similar activities.

UAM proposes to collect, receive, possess, import, and export samples of any species under NMFS jurisdiction taken legally worldwide. The samples could be collected from animals killed during Alaska Native hunts and under separate authorizations by permitted researchers or from dead stranded animals. Samples also could originate from other museums as long as those samples were collected legally. UAM serves as a major repository of samples from the Arctic and North Pacific Oceans, and the archived samples support a wide variety of scientific and educational activities. UAM 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