



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

10 November 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. 17305  
(Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks  
and Aquariums)

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 Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (the Alliance) is requesting authorization to 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 1076–1789 authorized similar activities.

The Alliance proposes to possess, receive, import, and export samples of any species under NMFS jurisdiction taken legally worldwide. The samples would be collected (1) by member facilities or permitted researchers under separate authorizations, (2) from animals killed in commercial fisheries or during subsistence hunts, or (3) from stranded animals. The objectives are to study basic biology and enhance the health of wild marine mammals and those in public display, research, or stranding facilities. The Alliance 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