



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

7 July 2015

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. 18897  
(Kathleen Colegrove, Ph.D.,  
University of Illinois)

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). Dr. Colegrove is requesting authorization to import, receive, and possess samples from cetaceans and pinnipeds during a five-year period—permit 14341 authorized similar activities.

Dr. Colegrove proposes to import, receive, and possess samples<sup>1</sup> from up to 100 cetaceans and 100 pinnipeds<sup>2</sup> per year. The objective is to determine the cause of disease outbreaks or unusual mortalities and investigate the ecology of diseases via histopathology and genetics. The samples could originate from individuals of either sex and any age class from (1) euthanized or dead-stranded marine mammals, (2) live marine mammals in permanent captivity or rehabilitation, and (3) live marine mammals captured and sampled by authorized researchers. All samples would be obtained in foreign countries.

The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service 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

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<sup>1</sup> Including but not limited to blood, serum, organs, tissue, skin, hair, and bone.

<sup>2</sup> Except walruses.