

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION  
4340 East-West Highway, Room 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4447

26 May 2009

Mr. P. Michael Payne, Chief  
Permits, Conservation, and Education Division  
Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225

Re: Permit Application No. 14497  
(The Mirage Casino-Hotel)

Dear Mr. Payne:

The Marine Mammal 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 applicant is requesting authorization to import two adult male captive-born bottlenose dolphins from Dolphin Quest in Bermuda to the Mirage Casino-Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, for purposes of public display and as part of a long-term breeding loan agreement between the facilities.

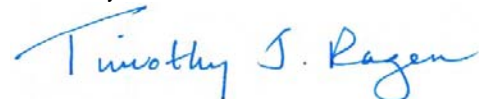
**RECOMMENDATION**

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the requested permit, provided that it determines that the applicant's program for education or conservation is consistent with the professionally recognized standards of the public display community.

The Commission believes that the activities for which it has recommended approval are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Please contact me if you or your staff has any questions concerning this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

cc: Barbara Kohn, D.V.M.