



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

29 October 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

Re: Request for Amendment of Permit No. 1100-1849
(Shane Moore, Moore & Moore Films)

Dear Mr. Payne:

The Marine Mammal Commission, in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced permit amendment request with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Permit No. 1100-1849 authorizes the permit holder to take annually by Level B harassment up to 10 killer whales from the eastern North Pacific transient stock, 10 gray whales, and 10 minke whales by close approach during filming activities. The purpose of the project is to document the behavior of marine mammals in the presence of the carcass of a gray or minke whale killed by killer whales. The permit was issued on 22 March 2007 and is valid through 31 March 2010. However, due to funding limitations, activities have yet to be conducted. Funding apparently is now available, and the permit holder is requesting that the permit be extended through 31 March 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service approved the requested amendment to extend the permit, provided that the conditions contained in the current permit remain in effect.

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 have any questions concerning this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director