



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

16 July 2010

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: Permit Application No. 14628
(National Museum of Natural History)

Dear Mr. Payne:

The Marine Mammal Commission, in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced permit request with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The applicant is requesting authorization to collect, import, export, and possess an unspecified number of salvaged specimens or parts from all species of marine mammals under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service for scientific research and educational use for a five-year period. The request pertains only to the collection, loan, import, or export of specimens or parts that have been legally obtained, including those that have been legally accessioned and cataloged into research collections. The applicant will obtain the salvaged specimens or parts from strandings, incidental takes, direct takes, and excess tissues from animals subject to research activities not covered under this permit.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the requested permit, provided that—

- the applicant be required to obtain all necessary permits under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora before importing or exporting any marine mammal parts;
- the applicant maintain detailed records indicating the source of each specimen and the circumstances under which it was collected; and
- the applicant periodically provide reports to the Service sufficient to demonstrate that each specimen was taken in accordance with the laws of the country of origin, was not taken in violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act or other applicable U.S. laws, and is being used only for bona fide scientific purposes.

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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 and other applicable laws.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director