



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

2 July 2010

Mr. Timothy J. Van Norman  
Chief, Branch of Permits  
Division of Management Authority  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22203

Re: Permit Application Renewal No. PRT-717015  
(Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County)

Dear Mr. Van Norman:

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

The applicant is requesting continuation of authorization to acquire, import, and export an unspecified number of specimens or parts from sea otters, marine otters, manatees, dugongs, polar bears, and walruses for the purpose of archiving, scientific exchange, and scientific research for a five-year period. The request pertains only to acquisition, loan, import, or export of specimens or parts legally obtained and/or legally accessioned and cataloged into a research collection. The applicant states that only salvaged parts or carcasses from dead stranded animals will be obtained.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service issue the requested permit renewal, 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 for bona fide scientific purposes only.

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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 black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Gordin" followed by a flourish and the letters "for".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director