



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

8 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: Request for Amendment, Permit No. 14535
(Colleen Reichmuth, Ph.D.)

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.

The permit holder is requesting authorization to add two non-releasable (i.e., captive or rehabilitated) individuals from each of the following species—ringed seals, bearded seals, and spotted seals—to the captive research program at Long Marine Laboratory in Santa Cruz, California. The purpose of the request is to expand the permit holder's comparative study of the basic perceptual and cognitive function among pinniped species and to assess potential impacts to marine mammals from human sound. The proposed amendment would remain in effect for the duration of the permit, which expires 31 December 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

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

- the proposed activities have been reviewed and approved by the permit holder's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee in accordance with section 2.31 of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Animal Welfare Act regulations, and
- the conditions contained in the original permit remain in effect.

Because the activities proposed in the original application have not changed, the recommendation provided by the Marine Mammal Commission in its letter of 29 October 2009 regarding that application still applies. That letter is enclosed and incorporated by reference.

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Please contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael L. Gordin", followed by a horizontal line and the letters "for".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosure