



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

4 November 2014

Ms. Jolie Harrison, Chief
Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225

Re: Permit Application No. 18208
(Randy Sacco, Ph.D.,
National Animal Disease Center)

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The Marine Mammal Commission (the 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 MMPA). Dr. Sacco is requesting authorization to receive and possess samples from dolphins for purposes of scientific research during a five-year period.

Dr. Sacco proposes to receive and maintain cell lines from Atlantic spotted dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, and short-beaked common dolphins. The objectives of the study are to determine how a viral infection modulates host anti-viral defense mechanisms and to examine cytokine/chemokine signaling pathways. Cell lines would be obtained from the American Type Culture Collection or other permitted researchers authorized to maintain cell lines and would be utilized at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Disease Center.

The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that NMFS issue the permit, as requested. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca J. Lent".

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.
Executive Director