

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION  
4340 East-West Highway, Room 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4447

8 April 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 20910-3226

Re: Permit Application No. 14341  
(Karen Terio, D.V.M., 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 application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The applicant is requesting authorization to import samples from up to 200 individual cetaceans and pinnipeds (except walruses) from yet-to-be-determined locations outside the United States. All samples would be obtained from animals found dead of natural causes, taken by researchers operating under other permits or authorizations, or legally maintained in captivity outside the United States. No live animals would be taken for purposes of this research. The samples would include, but would not be limited to, blood, other tissues, sera, organs, skin, hair, and bone. The applicant would use the samples for various research projects focusing on disease outbreaks or unusual natural mortalities, investigations into the ecology of diseases in free-ranging animals, or unexpected mortalities in captive populations. The applicant is requesting that the permit be issued for a five-year period

## 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 provide reports to the Service demonstrating 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 prominent initial "T".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director