



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

22 October 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 No. PRT-19420A
(Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc.)

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 request with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The applicant is requesting authorization to continue to retain a juvenile male walrus maintained at the Indianapolis Zoo. The animal was placed in captivity by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an abandoned calf in 2003 but was never declared permanently non-releasable. The applicant also requested that the Service reconfirm the public display status of an adult female polar bear collected under permit No. PRT-797101. The Service advised the applicant that that request will be considered under permit No. PRT-797101, not this application.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service approve the request, provided that the Service—

- in consultation with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, is satisfied that the applicant's facilities for maintaining the animal are adequate to provide for its health and well-being; and
- is satisfied that the applicant's education program is acceptable (i.e., a program is in place as a component of the proposed public display, the basic message of the program is accurate and consistent with the policies of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the program includes accurate information about the life history and other aspects of the species).

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".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director