



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

25 August 2016

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. 19669
(Chicago Zoological Society)

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). Chicago Zoological Society (CZS) is requesting to import, receive, possess, and export samples from Peruvian fur seals and South American sea lions during a five-year period—the same activities were authorized under permit 15471.

CZS is proposing to import, receive, possess, and export samples from Peruvian fur seals and South American sea lions taken legally in Peru. All age classes and both sexes could be sampled. Samples would originate from live animals¹ that were collected by permitted researchers and dead stranded animals². The purpose of the research is to continue long-term monitoring to assess baseline health parameters, pathogen and disease exposure, environmental contaminant and toxin concentrations, and causes of death of Peruvian fur seals and South American sea lions. CZS could export samples to foreign laboratories for analysis.

The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and therefore recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service 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

¹ Including blood, swabs, skin, blubber, milk, urine, feces, gastric contents, fur, skin, vibrissae, teeth (a single tooth from adults only), and/or placental/umbilical tissue.

² Including organs, tissues, gastrointestinal contents, bones, and teeth.