



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

24 April 2017

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. 21045
(Matson's Laboratory, LLC)

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). Matson's Laboratory, LLC, (Matson's Lab) is requesting authorization to import, receive, possess, and export samples from pinnipeds during a five-year period—permit 17029 authorized the same activities.

Matson's Lab proposes to import, receive, possess, and export tooth samples¹ from various pinnipeds species (see the Take Table). Those samples would be obtained from pinnipeds (1) killed during legal subsistence hunts in the United States and in foreign countries, (2) stranded dead or alive or that died in rehabilitation in foreign countries, and (3) captured during permitted research activities in the United States and in foreign countries. The purpose is to assess age in various species of pinnipeds. 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 returning tooth remnants and prepared slides to the various researchers.