



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

13 October 2020

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 Amendment 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 amendment 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 authorized to import, receive, possess, and/or export tooth samples from pinnipeds (excluding walrus) during a five-year period. The purpose of the research is to assess age in various species.

Matson's Lab proposes to import, receive, possess, and export tooth samples from up to 300 unidentified cetaceans per year. Samples could originate from individuals of either sex and any age class and be obtained from cetaceans (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 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 amendment, provided that the current permit conditions remain in effect. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter O. Thomas".

Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D.,
Executive Director