



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

17 March 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. 19768  
(Evin Hildebrandt, Ph.D.,  
University of Massachusetts Medical School)

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). Dr. Hildebrandt is requesting authorization to receive, possess, and create cell lines from cetaceans during a five-year period.

Dr. Hildebrandt proposes to receive, possess, and create up to 15 cell lines from unidentified cetaceans each year. Cell lines would be received from permitted researchers, but would be created from animal tissues obtained from the stranding network. The objective is to study the evolution of endogenous viruses using DNA and RNA sequencing.

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