



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

APR 26 2012

Daniel Distel, Ph. D.
Ocean Genome Legacy
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Contact Information

Phone: 978-380-7425

Email : distel@oglf.org

Dear Dr. Distel:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed your request for authorization to receive tissue parts collected from stranded, by-caught or captive cetaceans and pinnipeds by NMFS' National Marine Mammal Stranding Network, organizations holding a NMFS issued Scientific Research/Enhancement permit or those holding a permit for public display of marine mammals. Samples are requested from permit holders and stranding networks in the following NMFS Regions: Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, Southwest, Alaska and Pacific Island Regions. The samples will be used to maintain a DNA bank and research bio-repository to preserve genetic material from marine mammals. The information provided about your research in your written correspondence is sufficient to satisfy the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requirements for transfer of marine mammal parts. The MMPA's implementing regulations at 50 CFR 216.22(c)(5) and 216.37 authorizes the transfer of marine mammal parts if:

- (1) the person/agency transferring the part does not receive payment for the part;
- (2) the marine mammal part is transferred for scientific research purposes, curation in a professionally accredited scientific collection, or educational objectives; and
- (3) an accession number, authorized or assigned by NMFS, is affixed to the marine mammal part. In most cases this is the field number assigned by the Marine Mammal Stranding Network (Network) for the stranding or NMFS Permit holder.

Pursuant to 50 CFR 216.22 and 216.37, this letter authorizes Ocean Genome Legacy to possess/receive soft tissue samples from stranded or taken cetaceans and pinnipeds collected by the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network, a NMFS Permit holder, or a Marine Mammal Public Display facility for DNA collection. You may contact any member of the six Regional Marine Mammal Stranding Network holding a Stranding Agreement, NMFS Scientific/Research permit holder or an authorized Marine Mammal Public Display Facility to arrange for collection, preservation, and transfer of specimens (see the enclosed list of Stranding Network participants in the Northeast Region and list of Regional Coordinators to contact for Stranding Network participants in other Regions). Transfer of parts must be coordinated with the Network organization or Permit Holder to ensure that no specimen is taken prematurely and to ensure accurate disposition of the parts. Although payment is not allowed for marine mammal parts, the transferor may assess processing and/or shipping fees. Your acceptance of these marine mammal specimens absolves NMFS and the Stranding Network/Permit Holder of liability for any human health or safety risks, known or unknown, from exposure to these parts. Should you acquire more parts than needed for your research objectives or should your research program cease to exist, any transferred parts must be returned to the transferor and notice given to the NMFS Regional Administrator. This

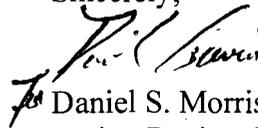


authorization expires in five years from the authorization date. Upon expiration, if you would still like to obtain marine mammal parts, please contact Mendy Garron, NER Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator, (contact information below) to request renewal of the authorization.

You shall provide a written annual report of all specimens received to Mendy Garron, NER Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, email: Mendy.Garron@noaa.gov. The report shall include the specimen type, the field identification number of the animal from which the specimen was collected, the animal's original stranding date, the date you received the specimen, the organization/individual from which you received the specimen, the final disposition of the specimen (destroyed vs. archived), and the date of the final disposition. The report is due by February 1, 2013 and every year after until the expiration of this authorization. Failure to submit the annual report can result in termination of the authorization, which will require all acquired parts to be returned to the Network or to NMFS.

The NMFS Northeast Region requires that you acknowledge the cooperating Stranding Network, Permit Holder and NMFS in any publications or other reports resulting from the use of the transferred material or data. Please send copies of these reports to the NMFS Northeast Regional Office for our files and for distribution to collaborating organizations and researchers. Reports and questions regarding this authorization should be directed to Mendy Garron at (978) 282-8478 or mendy.garron@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Daniel S. Morris
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure:

List of Northeast Region Marine Mammal Stranding Network Letter Holders
Contact information for NMFS Regional Stranding Coordinators

cc: F/PR2 – T. Rowles
F/SER3 – E. Fougeres
F/SWR3 – S. Wilkin
F/NWR3 – B. Norberg
F/AKR3 – A. Jensen
F/PIR4 – D. Schofield
NMFS NER Marine Mammal Parts - Research Request