



IN REPLY REFER TO

# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



AFES/MMM

JUL 10 2015

Dr. Nicole Misrati  
Duckering Building 458  
P. O. Box 5860  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5860

Dear Dr. Misrati:

Thank you for your request of June 30, 2015, seeking authorization to receive, or transport biological samples from Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*) which have been taken or collected by Alaska Natives for subsistence purposes. We understand that this work is being conducted under your National Science Foundation funded research project titled "Walrus Adaptability and Long-term Responses; Using Multi-Proxy Data to Project Sustainability."

By this letter, and in accordance with Federal regulations 50 CFR 18.23(b)(2), we hereby extend to you and your team in your capacity with the State of Alaska's University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) authorization for calendar year 2015 to, receive, transport, and possess skeletal material from up to six Pacific walrus that have been taken or collected by Alaska Natives for subsistence purposes. This authorization is contingent upon the following terms and conditions:

1. Biological samples may only be transferred to the Service, or to institutions/researchers authorized by the Service. Please notify the Service prior to transferring any biological samples.
2. Consistent with local efforts to minimize disturbances at walrus haulouts, activities at the Pt. Lay haulout should not occur after August 15<sup>th</sup>, and should not be conducted within one mile of any live hauled out walrus.
3. Please consult with The Native Village of Point Lay Tribal Council prior to initiating activities.
4. Any material not destroyed in the course of your research should be archived at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Museum of the North.
5. Prior to January 31, 2016, you must submit to the Service's Marine Mammal Management Office (MMMO) a report that provides: the number of sampled animals; a description of each sampled animal including location, sex, age, and cause of death; and a description of the number and type of samples collected and their disposition.

Dr. Nicole Misrati

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Besides yourself, we understand your team members consist of Lara Horstmann, Link Olson, Casey Clark, Patrick Charapata, Chase Markel, and Aren Gunderson. If there are any changes to your team members, please notify us so we can amend this authorization.

Thank you for your interest in walrus research. If you require additional assistance, please contact Mr. Jonathan Snyder, of the MMMO, at (907) 786-3800 or email at [jonathan\\_snyder@fws.gov](mailto:jonathan_snyder@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Casey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chief, Marine Mammals Management

cc: DMA  
LE/R-7