I. Title of Application

A. Joint Application to NMFS and USFWS for a Permit for Scientific Research and Enhancement under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Fur Seal Act, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

II Date of the Application

November 30, 2004

III. Applicant and Personnel

A. Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums
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The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums is an international association of marine life parks, aquariums, zoos, research facilities, and professional organizations dedicated to the highest standards of care for marine mammals and to their conservation in the wild through public education, scientific study, and wildlife presentations. Members of the Alliance collectively represent the greatest body of professional expertise and knowledge regarding marine mammal husbandry. Research advancing science and technologies is continually conducted to expand the knowledge base and integrated into Alliance Standards and Guidelines to assure that the animals at our facilities get the best of care.

Principal Investigator

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Co-investigators:

As a service to members of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, the Alliance includes individuals from member facilities as co-investigators to allow import and export of marine mammal specimen samples and parts to facilitate research on the biology and health of marine mammals in the wild and in our facilities. At this time, the following are the proposed co-investigators. (Resumes are attached.) Others will be added as members join the Alliance. Non-U.S. facilities are noted by country.

1. Brookfield Zoo/Chicago Zoological Society – Melinda Pruett-Jones, MS
2. Dolphin Connection – Doug Messinger
3. Dolphin Discovery Cozumel -- Renato Lenzi - Mexico - PhD
4. Dolphin Encounters Ltd. – Kim Terrell – The Bahamas
5. UNEXSO Dolphin Experience –Chris DeAngelo, BA– The Bahamas
6. Dolphin Quest Bermuda – Jay Sweeney, VMD– Bermuda
7. Dolphin Quest French Polynesia – Jay Sweeney, VMD – French Polynesia
8. Dolphin Quest Hawaii – Jay Sweeney, VMD
9. Dolphin Quest Oahu – Jay Sweeney, VMD
10. Dolphin Research Center– Jayne Shannon
11. Gulf World – Ron Hardy, BS, MS
12. Dolfinarium Harderwijk Holland -- Jan Mosterd - Holland
13. Hubbs SeaWorld Research Institute – Pamela Yochem, DVM
14. Indianapolis Zoo – Dave Merritt, BA
15. Institute for Marine Science – Eldon Bolton, BS - Honduras
16. Jardim Zoológico e de Aclimatação em Portugal (Lisbon Zoo) – Arlete Sogorb, DVM - Portugal
17. Disney's Living Seas – Michael Stamper, DVM
18. Miami Seaquarium – Robert Rose, BS
19. Minnesota Zoological Gardens – Diane Fusco, BS
20. Mystic Aquarium – Dr. Tracy Romano, PhD

21. New York Aquarium/Wildlife Conservation Society – David DeNardo, BS

22. Ocean Park – Suzanne Gendron, BA - Hong Kong

23. Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium – John Rupp, BS, MS

24. Sea Life Park Hawaii – Michael Osborn, BS

25. Shedd Aquarium– Dr. Jeff Boehm, DVM

26. Six Flags Marine World – Dave Blasko

27. Tampereen Sarkanniemi Oy – Kai Mattsson - Finland

28. Theater of the Sea – Beverley Osborne, BS

29. Vancouver Aquarium – Lance Barrett-Lennard, PhD - Canada

30. Virginia Aquarium – Mark Swingle, BS, MS

31. Mundo Aquático SA - Zoomarine – Elio Vicente, Ms.C – Portugal

B. Qualifications and Experience

The Alliance has submitted CVs from the investigator and co-investigators involved in this research permit application.

IV. Description of Proposed Scientific Research

A. Abstract of proposed scientific research

The overall objective of the multiple research and husbandry programs conducted by Alliance facilities is to study and document the health and biology of wild marine mammals and those in public display, research, or stranding facilities. To fully achieve this objective, a permit to import/export parts and specimen samples (hard and soft parts) collected from all species of marine mammals (pinnipeds, cetaceans, sirenians, sea otters, and polar bears) is required. Most of the specimens will come from animals maintained in Alliance member facilities for public display. However, specimens from stranded animals and those involved in legally authorized research projects would also be covered by this permit. Topics of particular interest include diseases of marine mammals, effects of environmental contaminants, artificial insemination, stock structure, age determination, mortality determinations, pregnancy rates, calf production, feeding habits and nutrition, and distribution.

Parts and specimen samples from animals will be collected and subsequently curated, imported or exported only when they are available due to the following circumstances:

- Animal is legally permitted for public display or research, including field research.
- Beach-cast carcass recovered or animal expired at a member facility.
- Animal was found dead at sea or died pursuant to a stranding incident.

- Stranded animal is being treated at a zoological park or aquarium.

Parts would only be collected from non-living animals. Parts and specimen samples may be taken at any time during the year and in all areas worldwide.

B. Summary of Marine Mammals to be Taken, Imported or Exported

1. Species Name(s)

We are requesting authority to import, and export parts and specimen samples from all marine mammal species of the Order Cetacea, Order Sirenia, Family Phocidae, Family Otariidae, Family Odobenidae, Family Ursidae, and Family Mustellidae. It is not possible to predict the actual list of species from which biological samples and parts could become available under this permit due to the opportunistic nature in which the specimens become available through strandings. An excellent example is one Alliance member's rehabilitation and release of JJ, a gray whale. Marine mammals maintained for public display predominantly include: killer and beluga whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals, walrus and polar bears. The bulk of specimens will come from these animals. Some non-releasable endangered or threatened species, such as manatees, Steller sea lions, monk seals, and southern sea otters, are also cared for at the request of responsible government authorities.

2. Parts and Specimen Samples

Parts and specimen samples to be studied include cells, serum, tissue, organs, or parts. Specifically, parts and specimen samples of interest from dead animals include, but are not limited to, earplugs, teeth, bone, tympanic bullae, ear ossicles, baleen eyes, blood, serum, muscle, skin, blubber, internal organs and tissues, reproductive organs, mammary glands, milk or colostrum, fetuses, internal and external parasites, stomachs/intestines and their contents, feces, flippers, fins, flukes, head and skull, and entire carcasses. Specimens of interest from live animals (from animals in Alliance facilities, live stranded animals, and those in permitted research projects) will be derived incidental to routine animal husbandry and include, but are not limited to semen, urine, feces, saliva, ocular secretions, microbiological samples from all orifices, gastric samples, blubber, skin, and whole blood or serum.

Should any government request that an Alliance member collect samples from marine mammals in a wild population to monitor disease or determine what is causing population declines, as has been requested by NMFS in the past, we request authority to receive, possess, import, and export tissues from other permitted researchers abroad and in the U.S. These specimens most likely would include, but are not limited to, semen, urine, feces, saliva, ocular secretions, microbiological samples from all orifices, gastric samples, blubber, skin, and whole blood.

3. Status of Affected Stocks

No takes of live marine mammals are requested in this application. Most specimens will be collected from marine mammals in Alliance member facilities. Others will originate from permitted research studies or from stranded marine mammals being rehabilitated by member facilities. Marine mammals at Alliance member facilities are permanently cared for by professionally trained staff. Alliance member facilities must meet Alliance Standards and Guidelines in addition to any relevant government's animal care standards. In the U.S., this includes the regulations of the Department of

Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). For specific U.S. information, please see NMFS' stock assessment reports at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2/Stock_Assessment_Program/individual_sars.html

C. Detailed Description of Proposed Research Activity (In the Wild or In Public Display Facilities)

1. Duration of the Project and Locations of Taking

A permit is requested for the five-year maximum allowed. We request coverage from all regions of the United States and to import/export worldwide.

Due to the opportunistic nature of the part and specimen sample collections, it is not possible to predict the number or nature that will be imported or exported under the authority of this permit. Therefore, we are requesting authorization to import and/or export an unlimited number of samples from non-ESA-listed marine mammals. For species of ESA-listed marine mammals, we request authorization to import/or export 200 samples from each species.

All samples will be collected and/or handled by professionally trained marine mammal care staff including licensed veterinarians at facilities that meet or exceed USDA-APHIS' marine mammal regulations under the AWA.

A. Import

Countries or facilities - where samples from live marine mammals in public display facilities or dead animals as described in Section IV(C)(5) may be collected and then subsequently imported into the U.S. - include all countries in which an Alliance member is located. At present, that includes: the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Finland, French Polynesia, Holland, Honduras, Hong Kong, Mexico, and Portugal.

Facilities where samples from live animals, as described in Section IV(C)(5), may be collected and subsequently imported include, but are not limited to, those listed in Appendix 1.

B. Export

Facilities where samples from live animals in Alliance members facilities may be obtained and subsequently exported from the U.S. include: Brookfield Zoo, Dolphin Connection, Dolphin Quest – Hawaii, Dolphin Quest – Oahu, Dolphin Research Center, Gulf World, Miami Seaquarium, Hubbs SeaWorld Research Institute, Indianapolis Zoo, Living Seas, Minnesota Zoological Gardens, Mystic Aquarium, New York Aquarium, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Six Flags Marine World, John G. Shedd Aquarium, Sea Life Park Hawaii, Theater of the Sea, and the Virginia Aquarium.

Locations where parts and specimen samples may be collected from dead animals and subsequently exported from the U.S. include any state actively involved with a marine mammal stranding network including Alaska and Hawaii. Designated ports of entry will be used unless other arrangements are made with FWS.

2. Types of Taking Involved and Estimate of Number(s) of Animals that may be Taken

We request a permit to import/export parts and specimen samples -- to facilitate the study of marine mammal biology and health -- from Alliance member facilities worldwide as well as from wild marine mammals sampled under the authorization of other permits or otherwise legally taken. Authorization of this permit will not change interactions with live animals. Specimens taken from animals in Alliance member facilities will be collected during routine husbandry sampling or under other permitted research. Specimens from live and dead stranded marine mammals will be taken opportunistically at the discretion of the primary veterinarian or stranding partner under authorization from the NMFS Stranding Network (if in the U.S.) or the responsible government authority in other countries.

Due to the nature of the takes involved in this activity it is not possible to predict the number of samples or specimens, the age classes involved, the stocks, sizes, sexes, or reproductive status of the animals from which samples are taken. We are therefore requesting an unlimited number of samples from non ESA-listed marine mammals, and up to 200 samples from species that are ESA-listed.

3. Research in the Wild

The permit would also cover parts and specimen samples from marine mammals that are subjects of legally permitted research in the wild or from opportunistic strandings.

4. Removing a Marine Mammal from the Wild

Not applicable. This permit is not requesting the removal of any marine mammal from the wild. Specimens will be taken predominantly from marine mammals in Alliance member zoological parks and aquariums, opportunistic strandings, and permitted field research or research with marine mammals in Alliance member collections.

5. Taking of Marine Mammal Parts of Specimen Samples

We are requesting a permit that will allow the import/export of parts and specimen samples taken from marine mammals both living and dead to facilitate the study of marine mammal biology and health. These include, but are not limited to: urine, feces, saliva, semen, ocular secretions, microbiological samples from all orifices, gastric samples, blubber, skin, and whole blood or serum.

Samples from dead marine mammals would come from marine mammals in our facilities that have expired, stranded animals that have died because of disease, injury, or natural causes, and those taken in subsistence hunts in countries where this activity is legally permitted.

Samples from live marine mammals would come from animals in Alliance member facilities during normal husbandry activities, live strandings, or legally permitted research conducted under separate permits issued by NMFS, USFWS, or responsible government authorities in foreign countries.

- From marine mammals in public display facilities, in scientific research projects or in breeding programs in countries where such activity is legal; and
- Have been behaviorally conditioned for sample donation as part of their routine husbandry management.
- Specimens may be taken at anytime of the year and in all areas worldwide due to the circumstances described in section IV A.

- Specimens of interest from live animals include, but are not limited to semen, urine, feces, saliva, ocular secretions, microbiological samples from all orifices, gastric samples, blubber, skin, and whole blood.

The Alliance would delegate the authority to collect and possess parts and specimens from marine mammals made available as described in section IV.A to scientific colleagues from the U.S. and elsewhere. This is a common practice for which authority has been granted in the past.

Specimens and parts will be collected and stored by Alliance members according to generally accepted protocols for the particular specimens and for the particular studies in which they will be used. When appropriate, Alliance members will consult with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the NOAA Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response System Program to determine the best protocols for sample collection, handling, storage, shipping, and analysis to facilitate comparative studies, recognizing that non-standardized protocols and interlaboratory variability can negate the ability to make important comparisons. Preservation methods may include, but not be limited to, refrigeration, freezing at -70 degrees C., immersion in liquid nitrogen, immersion in 10% neutral buffered formalin, immersion in ethyl or isopropyl alcohol, drying, etc. Shipment of specimens and the preservatives in which they reside, if any, will conform to all appropriate national and international shipping and handling standards. Detailed records will be kept and tracked by the PI for each specimen. Data will include, but not be limited to, specimen ID number, genus and species of animal, sex of animal, age of animal, date of collection, preservation method(s), name of collector, location of collection, relevant permit numbers, etc.

The PI will, in all cases, be notified when specimens/parts are to be imported/exported, and will maintain a log of all transactions, including recipient locations, e.g. analytical laboratories, as well as locations of stored specimen(s).

6. Import and Export of Marine Mammals Marine Mammal Parts

We are requesting import/export authority for marine mammal parts that include, but are not limited to: whole blood or serum, earplugs, teeth, bone, tympanic bullae, ear ossicles, baleen eyes, muscle, skin, blubber, internal organs and tissues, reproductive organs, mammary glands, milk or colostrum, fetuses, internal and external parasites, stomachs/intestines and their contents, feces, flippers, fins, flukes, head and skull, and entire carcasses. We are requesting import authority for all countries worldwide in which an Alliance member is located, including but not limited to the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Finland, French Polynesia, Holland, Honduras, Hong Kong, Mexico, and Portugal. Due to the unpredictable nature of sample availability, it is not possible to predict where specimens will originate.

Alliance facilities that may participate in the exchange of samples internationally are listed in section III.

7. Research on Animals on Marine Mammals in Zoological Parks and Aquariums

Not applicable. Samples taken from marine mammals in Alliance member facilities will be taken during normal husbandry practices. Any samples collected during research projects will be a result of legally authorized research permits, or done under the authorities of LOAs issued by NMFS' Marine Mammal Stranding Network or other responsible government authorities. Details of the authorization may be assessed through examination of each applicable permit(s).

8. Background and Review of Research

In additional to providing an environment rich in education opportunities, Alliance members fund research studies of marine mammal biology, ecology, reproduction, and behavior at their facilities, giving scientists the opportunity to study these animals in a controlled setting. This research has led to improvements in diagnosing and treating marine mammal diseases, among others.

Members of the Alliance also spend millions of dollars helping thousands of stranded marine mammals. The collection of biological data from stranded marine mammals, which have died on beaches or been rescued by Alliance members, helps scientists gain extensive knowledge about life histories, diet, animal health, and population dynamics This work also gives researchers a glimpse into the state of our oceans and rivers by studying pollution levels and diseases affecting wild animal populations.

Additionally, Alliance members have invested millions of dollars in field research supporting marine mammal species survival in the wild. This research is conducted under separate permits issued by NMFS, USFWS, or other responsible government authorities. Field research programs encompass studies of behavior, population biology and health, ecological relationships, and impacts of environmental contaminants. Such studies would include, for example, research such as the Chicago Zoological Society's Sarasota Dolphin Research Program and Dolphin Quest's health survey of dolphins in Bermuda's waters.

Diagnostic techniques honed at zoological parks and aquariums benefit scientists studying marine mammals in the wild. These advances in diagnostics help researchers measure contaminant exposure, monitor health and immune responses of individual animals, and study population-level trends. Once veterinarians successfully adapted ultrasound technology to marine mammals, they were able to accurately predict ovulation for the first time. In turn, this aided study of artificial insemination (AI) in cetaceans, which is in its infant stage. This AI breakthrough is very important. It will allow the marine mammal community to utilize a global gene pool, help ensure the genetic diversity of cetaceans in zoological parks and aquariums, and contribute to the managed population's future health and viability.

(Attached are two documents. The first is a compendium of ongoing research at Alliance members facilities; the second is a summary of research that has been completed. These include published citations, where applicable.)

9. Lethal Take

Not applicable. No intentional or unintentional lethal take of any marine mammal would be covered by this permit.

10. Research on Endangered Species

Any parts or specimen samples from endangered species would solely be from previously authorized takes, normal husbandry practices, or from stranded animals. As the samples would be legally

permitted and approved, there would be no disruption of any endangered wild population caused by this permit application.

U.S. members of the Alliance are periodically asked by either the National Marine Fisheries Service or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide homes for non-releasable endangered species that have been debilitated by disease or injury, or have been orphaned. In part, these include Steller sea lions, Hawaiian monk seals, manatees, and southern sea otters. Professionals at Alliance facilities train these animals to participate voluntarily in a husbandry regime, through which samples will be collected.

Knowledge acquired through research using husbandry data from animals in public display facilities, in tandem with field research, is important to marine mammal conservation and contributes to the health of wild, endangered marine mammal populations.

Using diagnostic techniques perfected at zoological parks and aquariums, researchers continue to make advances in diagnostics that benefit endangered species. For example, sick, orphaned, or injured manatees are rehabilitated at zoological parks and aquariums with the help of these diagnostic techniques and are returned successfully to their natural environments.

Artificial insemination technology also has the potential to help endangered cetacean species. For example, scientists and environmentalists are extremely concerned about Chinese river dolphins, or bajii, which likely face extinction due to pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation, entanglement in fishing gear, and loss of prey resources due to over-fishing. Artificial insemination techniques might eventually be applied to endangered species in the hope of stabilizing or increasing their populations. Research has just begun with materials collected from stranded cetaceans, some endangered, that come ashore throughout the world. To date, almost no research has been conducted utilizing material from these animals, which could have important ramifications for endangered species.

D. Describe the Anticipated Effects of the Proposed Activity

1. Effects on Individual Animals

This is not applicable for specimens collected postmortem. For marine mammals that have been behaviorally conditioned from which samples are collected during the course of routine husbandry practices (i.e. for semen collection, blood samples etc), no adverse effects will occur. Collection of specimens from live stranded animals, essential to diagnosing an animal's health, would be supervised by the attending veterinarian. This is consistent with NMFS' definition of what does and does not constitute "intrusive research" at 50 CFR 216.3 which states:

"Intrusive research means a procedure conducted for bona fide scientific research involving: A break in or cutting of the skin or equivalent, insertion of an instrument or material into an orifice, introduction of a substance or object into the animal's immediate environment that is likely either to be ingested or to contact and directly affect animal tissues (i.e., chemical substances), or a stimulus directed at animals that may involve a risk to health or welfare or that may have an impact on normal function or behavior (i.e., audio broadcasts directed at animals that may affect behavior). For captive animals, this definition does not include:

(1) A procedure conducted by the professional staff of the holding facility or an attending veterinarian for purposes of animal husbandry, care, maintenance, or treatment, or a routine

medical procedure that, in the reasonable judgment of the attending veterinarian, would not constitute a risk to the health or welfare of the captive animal; or

(2) A procedure involving either the introduction of a substance or object (i.e., as described in this definition) or a stimulus directed at animals that, in the reasonable judgment of the attending veterinarian, would not involve a risk to the health or welfare of the captive animal."

2. Effects of Incidental Harassment

Not Applicable. Collection of specimens from stranded animals directed to the diagnosis of the stranding cause cannot be considered harassment. (See above definition of "intrusive research" from NMFS regulations at 50 CFR 216.3)

3. Effects on Stocks

Not Applicable. The samples being considered in this application request are from marine mammals currently in marine life parks, aquariums, and zoos; stranded marine mammals that have died, are being rehabilitated in an Alliance member facility, have been deemed by a responsible government authority as non-releasable; or animals in legally permitted research projects.

4. Stress, Pain and Suffering

Most specimens collected from marine mammals in Alliance member facilities are obtained using positive behavioral conditioning. Animal participation is voluntary. These samples will be predominantly collected as part of routine husbandry programs. Should analgesia be warranted for any procedures, it is administered under the supervision of a veterinarian and the animal's well-being and comfort is monitored with vigilance. Collection of specimens from stranded animals directed to the diagnosis of the stranding cause cannot be considered harassment. (See above definition of "intrusive research" from NMFS regulations at 50 CFR 216.3)

5. Measures to Minimize Disturbance

See Question 2 of this section.

6. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Considerations

(a) The research involves new, innovative, controversial, or experimental equipment or techniques;

Not applicable. This permit application is for the import/export of marine mammal specimens and parts to facilitate the study of marine mammal biology and health of these parts; it is not a permit application for a specific research project. Most of the samples will be obtained from normal husbandry practices at Alliance member zoological parks or aquariums. Any samples from stranded animals or animals in research projects will be legally permitted by responsible government authorities. All research on specimens collected uses techniques commonly used for that field of study. The research would not involve new, innovative, controversial or experimental equipment or techniques nor would the methods used to collect samples.

Artificial insemination, for example, is an important tool in assuring the long-term genetic health of populations maintained in Alliance member facilities. This permit will facilitate the exchange of

semen. The Alliance Standards and Guidelines require members to develop an animal management plan reflecting the goal of minimizing the need for collecting marine mammals from the wild. The plan prioritizes acquisition of marine mammals for Alliance facilities through managed breeding programs, loans, exchanges, or purchases from other zoological institutions. Artificial insemination is, and will only become more, essential to Alliance members' animal management plans.

For more information on artificial insemination and the benefits, please see:

http://www.biolreprod.org/cgi/content/abstract/71/2/650

http://www.biolreprod.org/cgi/content/abstract/70/5/1340

(b) the research techniques are likely to be adopted by other researchers;

Not applicable. Behavioral collection of specimen samples is the standard for marine mammals in Alliance member facilities. It has been in practice for more than 20 years. The research techniques involved in the proposed work in the sampling of deceased animals are techniques that are already well established and used by Alliance members. AI techniques are being developed and have been successful with bottlenose dolphins and killer whales.

(c) the location in which the research will be conducted is of special importance to other marine mammals;

Not applicable. No directed takes of healthy wild marine mammals would be permitted under this application. This permit would only apply to specimens and parts from marine mammals in public display facilities, deceased animals, animals found live-stranded, or animals in properly permitted research projects.

(d) the proposed activities involve unique or unknown risks or whether the likely effects are highly uncertain;

Not applicable. We anticipate that there is no unique or unknown risk of collecting samples from deceased animals and that these imports/exports do not present any immediate or direct impact to either individuals or stocks.

(e) any aspect of the research possibly affects the public health or safety of humans;

Not applicable. Samples are obtained by trained professional staff using appropriate protective gear (e.g. gloves or masks). Such professionals are regularly trained to be familiar with zoonotic disease potential. Samples are shipped according to current regulations regarding biomedical samples. To insure the integrity of samples, according to biological security protocols, collections will be carried out by trained individuals and samples will be shipped according to standard methods. (See IV (C) 5.)

(f) the activity may have a significant cumulative effect, considering existing and potential activities;

Not applicable. The requested permit would not authorize collections from the wild. Therefore, there will be no effect on wild stocks. Any parts or specimens collected under this permit would be

from husbandry activities at Alliance member zoological parks or aquariums, permitted research projects, or stranded marine mammals. Any significant cumulative effect would be positive, from our improved ability to provide care for animals at our facilities and wild marine mammals.

(g) the activity causes loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources;

Not applicable. There will be no loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

(h) there will be an adverse effect on endangered or threatened populations or stocks or their habitat;

Not applicable. Specimens and parts, for which the Alliance is requesting authorizations for import/export, will be obtained from endangered marine mammals that have died from disease, abandonment, injury, or natural causes; animals in permitted research programs; or non-releasable stranded animals held in Alliance member zoological parks and aquariums with government approval. Therefore, there will be no adverse impact on endangered or threatened populations or their habitat.

(i) the activity is in violation of a Federal, State, or local law for environmental protection.

Not applicable. This activity will not be in violation of any Federal, State, or local law for environmental protection.

E. Publication of Results.

Results from successful collection and experimentation with specimens will be made available through presentation at scientific meetings and through publications in peer reviewed literature. (See Alliance briefing books on research at member facilities.)

F. Proposal and Previous and Other permits

1. A formal research proposal in not available.

2. Sponsors and cooperating institutions: This permit application is the result of the cooperation of numerous Alliance members (listed in Section III).

3. Since this is the first permit for which the Alliance has applied, there is no history of prior permits to which to refer. Alliance members have been involved in numbers of research projects for which there are specific permits approved by NMFS or USFWS or other responsible government authorities, such as the permits held for the Chicago Zoological Society's Sarasota Dolphin Research Program and Steller sea lion research. However, the import of diagnostic samples has been difficult as time is usually of essence, i.e. to diagnose an ill animal. NMFS has been extremely cooperative in the past in helping members find an active permit for import, including that of the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, but has not been able to do so in all instances. The Alliance permit will have a significant impact on the ability of non-U.S. Alliance member zoological parks and aquariums to take advantage of

the prestigious laboratories available in the U.S. for diagnostic purposes, for example.

4. As necessary, CITES permits will be sought for importation and exportation of marine mammal tissues. Samples collected abroad will be taken in accordance with the applicable laws and with any necessary permits required by that country.

V. Special Considerations for Applicants Working Abroad (for Exports of Parts/Samples or Live Animals)

None: All import and export activities are to be covered under one permit. The principal investigator will be responsible for coordinating and reporting all transactions.

VI. Certification and Signature

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief I understand that this information is submitted for the purpose of obtaining a permit under one or more of the following statutes and the regulations promulgated thereunder, as indicated in Section I. of this application:

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and regulations (50 CFR 222.23(b));,

The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407) and regulations (50 CFR Part 216); and

The Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 1151-1175).

I also understand that any false statement may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 D.S.C. 1001, or to penalties provided under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, or the Fur Seal Act of 1966, whichever are applicable.

Signatures: Date: November 30, 2004

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Dr. Kristi West, Principal Investigator

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Marilee Menard, Executive Director