



FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Charles University

Department of Zoology
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In Prague, 28. 11. 2017

To whom it may concern

We would like to confirm that Ivanhoe Sea Safaris has been involved in the conservation genetics research of southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*). The field work of the Southern right whale project is based in Gansbaai area, Western Cape, South Africa and the laboratory work is held at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

The crew has collected us non-invasive samples in the permitted area of Danger Point according to the research permits RES2016/99 and RES2017/89. Samples collected in 2016 were also shared with Scottish Ocean Institute and were added to global genomic research of the species.

So-called non-invasive samples are sloughed skin samples. Especially after breaching and mating there can be found a big amount of sloughed skin floating on the surface and it is collectable with the small net on short pole from the boat. During this collection crew educates tourists about the importance of the sampling and the DNA research. The public perceives it very positively as the collection is completely non-invasive and the animal does not even know it has been sampled. This shows that this so-called citizen science plays important role in conservation of the animals as it provides samples for the research and also education for public.

Ivanhoe Sea Safaris also offers us their boat any time we need it for the research purposes. We have also discussed our results with the crew as they are highly experienced and work with the whales on daily basis.

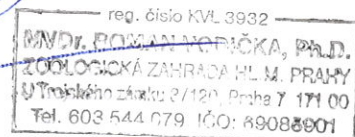
The team of the SRW Project has applied for the research permit in the cooperation with Ivanhoe Sea Safaris, the reference no. is RES2018/85.

If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact us at email address petra.neveceralova@natur.cuni.cz.

The Southern right whale project team:

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