

FAX TRANSMITTAL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Office of Protected Resources.

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Sent by: Johi Harrison

Date: 8/5

Number of Pages: 5 Plus Cover

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Organization: _____

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From: Johi Harrison

Subject: Healy IHA Correction

Comments: -Replace 8/4 document

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Incidental Harassment Authorization

The University of Alaska Fairbanks, 903 Koyukuk Drive, P.O. Box 757320 is hereby authorized under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(5)(D)) and 50 CFR 216.107, to harass a small number of marine mammals incidental to a seismic surveys conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Healy* across the Arctic Ocean, August-September, 2005:

1. This Authorization is valid from August 5, 2005, through August 4, 2006.
2. This Authorization is valid only for the *Healy's* seismic survey across the Arctic Ocean, from August-September, 2005.
3. (a) The taking, by incidental harassment only, is limited to no more than the following numbers of each species:

Atlantic white-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*) - 10
Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*) - 10
Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) - 5
Long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) - 10
Northern bottlenose whale (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) - 5
Beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) - 117
Narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) - 156
Harbor Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) - 5
Western Arctic Bowhead whale (*Balaena mysticetus*) - 238
Gray whale (*Eschrichinus robustus*) - 20
Minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) - 5
Bearded seal (*Erignathus barbatus*) - 111
Harbor seal (*Phocina vitulina richardsi*) - 2
Spotted seal (*Phoca largha*) - 5
Ringed seal (*Phoca fasciata*) - 4536
Hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*) - 7
Harp seal (*Phoca groenlandica*) - 21

The taking by serious injury or death of any of these species, or the taking by harassment, injury or death of any other species of marine mammal, is prohibited and may result in the modification, suspension or revocation of this Authorization.

(b) The taking of any marine mammal in a manner prohibited under this Authorization must be reported immediately to the Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), at (907) 271-5006, and the Office of Protected Resources (NMFS), at (301) 713-2289.

4. The holder of this Authorization is required to cooperate with NMFS and any other Federal, state or local agency monitoring the impacts of the activity on marine mammals.

5. Mitigation and Monitoring

The holder of this Authorization is required to:

(a) Utilize four NMFS-approved marine mammal observers (MMOs) to monitor marine mammals near the seismic source vessel during all daytime hours and during any start ups of the airgun(s) at night. Two observers will simultaneously be on duty whenever possible, and as described in (b), below. Shifts will last no longer than 4 hours at a time.

(b) Visually observe the entire extent of the safety radius (190 dB for pinnipeds, 180 dB for cetaceans) using two marine mammal observers, at least 30 minutes prior to starting the airguns. If for any reason the entire radius cannot be seen for the entire 30 minutes (i.e. rough seas, fog, darkness), or if marine mammals are near, approaching, or in the safety radius, the airguns may not be started up. If one airgun is already running, UAF may start the second gun without observing the entire safety radius for 30 minutes prior, provided no marine mammals are known to be near the safety radius.

(c) Implement a "ramp-up" procedure when starting up the two-gun array, which means start up one gun, and wait five minutes before starting up the other.

(d) Alter speed or course during seismic operations if a marine mammal, based on its position and relative motion, appears likely to enter the safety zone. If speed or course alteration is not safe or practical, or if after alteration the marine mammal still appears likely to enter the safety zone, further mitigation measures, such as airgun shut-down, will be taken.

(e) Shut-down or Power-down the airguns if a marine mammal approaches or enters the safety radius. A shut-down means all operating airguns are shut down. When the two-gun array is running, a power-down is possible, which means shutting down one airgun and reducing the safety radius. Following a power-down, if the marine mammal approaches the smaller safety radius, the airguns must then be completely shut down. Airgun activity will not resume until the marine mammal has cleared the safety radius, which means it was visually observed to have left the safety radius, or has not been seen within the radius for 15 min (small odontocetes and pinnipeds) or 30 min (mysticetes and large odontocetes, including sperm and beaked whales).

(f) Shut down all airguns immediately in the unlikely event a right whale is sighted, or a bowhead is sighted in the Svalbard, regardless of the distance of the whale from the airgun(s). Airguns may not be started again until the whale is seen to have moved away from the Healy and has been completely out of the visual range of the observers for at least 30 minutes.

(g) Using a small boat or the *Healy*, take every opportunity to survey areas that were seismically surveyed to record the behavior of any marine mammals that are present and observable and record any occurrences of dead or injured animals.

(h) Implement passive acoustic monitoring of marine mammals, utilizing the sonobuoys, to gather information on the presence/absence of marine mammals in the higher Arctic latitudes.

6. Reporting

The holder of this authorization is required to:

(a) Submit a report on all activities and monitoring results to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the Alaska Regional Administrator, NMFS, within 90 days of the completion of the *Healy's* cruise. This report must contain and summarize the following information:

(1) Dates of, times of, locations of, and weather during (including Beaufort Sea State) all seismic operations;

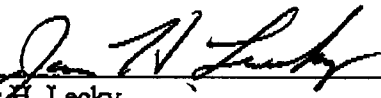
(2) Species, number, location, and behavior of any marine mammals, as well as associated seismic activity, observed throughout all monitoring activities (both visually and through passive acoustic monitoring).

(3) An estimate of the number (by species) of marine mammals that may have been harassed by the seismic activity with a discussion of the specific behaviors associated with the probable takes.

(4) A description of the implementation and effectiveness of the; (a) terms and conditions of the biological opinion (BO) (attached), and (b) mitigation measures of the IHA. For the biological opinion, the report will confirm the implementation of each term and condition and describe the effectiveness, as well as any conservation measures, for minimizing the adverse effects of the action on listed whales.

(b) In the unanticipated event that any cases of marine mammal injury or mortality are judged to result from these activities, UAF will report the incident to NMFS and the local stranding network immediately.

7. A copy of this Authorization must be in the possession of all contractors and marine mammal monitors operating under the authority of this Incidental Harassment Authorization.



James H. Lecky
Director
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service

AUG 5 2005

Date

Attachment

Excerpted from the Biological Opinion on the Issuance of an MMPA Authorization to the University of Alaska Fairbanks for a Marine Seismic Survey in the Arctic Ocean

Terms and Conditions

To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure 1, the NSF and NMFS shall ensure that:

1. UAF implements the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting conditions contained in the IHA.
2. The Endangered Species Division is immediately informed of any changes or deletions to any portions of the monitoring plan or IHA.

To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure 2, the NSF and NMFS shall ensure that:

3. Using a small boat or the *Healy*, the researchers shall take every opportunity to survey areas that were seismically surveyed to record the behavior of any listed animals that are present and observable and record any injured or killed listed species.
4. All reports shall include a description of the implementation and effectiveness of the terms and conditions. The reports shall confirm the implementation of each term and condition; and describe the effectiveness of the terms and conditions and conservation measures contained within the proposed actions for minimizing the adverse effects of the project on listed whales.
5. Reports shall be provided to the Chief of the Endangered Species Division (F/PR3), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20910

To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure 3, the NSF and NMFS shall ensure that:

6. Broadband sonobuoys shall be deployed periodically (approximately every 4 hours) along the cruise line to record vocalizations of bowhead whales. The UAF and NSF shall report to NMFS on the results of this effort.