



United States Department of the Interior



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AFES/MMM

JAN 29 2015

Ms. Susan Childs
Shell Exploration and Production Company
3601 C Street, Suite 1000
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Ms. Childs:

This letter serves as an amendment to Letter of Authorization (LOA) 15-CS-01 for the incidental take of polar bears and Pacific walruses in association with the Shell Exploration and Production (Shell) 2015/2016 Ice Overflight Surveys in the Chukchi Sea, Alaska. Letter of Authorization 15-CS-01 is amended to authorize the incidental take Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*) in addition to polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*). Condition number five of LOA 15-CS-01 is amended to include the following:

- Operators of support aircraft should, at all times, conduct their activities at the maximum distance possible from concentrations of walruses or polar bears.
- Under no circumstances, other than an emergency, should fixed wing aircraft operate at an altitude lower than 457 m (1,500 feet [ft]) within 805 m (0.5 mi) of walrus groups observed on ice, or within 1,610 m (1 mi) of walrus groups observed on land. Under no circumstances, other than an emergency, should rotary winged aircraft (helicopters) operate at an altitude lower than 914 m (3,000 ft) within 1,610 m (1 mi) of walrus groups observed on ice or land. Under no circumstances, other than an emergency, should aircraft operate at an altitude lower than 457 m (1,500 ft) within 805 m (0.5 mi) of polar bears observed on ice or land. When weather conditions do not allow the minimum stipulated flying altitude, such as during storms or when cloud cover is low, aircraft may be operated below the minimum altitudes stipulated above. However, when aircraft are operated at altitudes below the minimum stipulated flying altitude because of weather conditions, they must avoid areas of known walrus and polar bear concentrations and should take precautions to avoid flying directly over or within 1,610 m (1 mi) of these areas. Helicopters may not hover above or circle any of the areas described above.

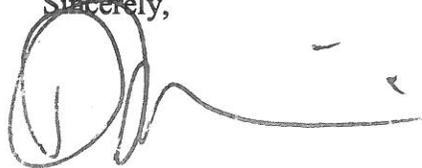
Ms. Susan Childs

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All terms, conditions and stipulations contained in LOA 15-CS-01 are amended to include the aforementioned changes but remain otherwise unchanged. This amendment is effective immediately. The effective period for the LOA remains unchanged and expires April 30, 2016.

If any additional changes develop in your project during the 2015/2016 Ice Overflight Surveys, such as activities or location, notify us prior to the planned operation. This will allow us to evaluate the activity and, if appropriate, amend your LOA. If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Christopher Putnam at (907) 786-3844.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a long, horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Chief, Marine Mammals Management

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard Shideler, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (email)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office (email)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement (email)
North Slope Borough, Department of Law (email)



Gibbons, Sharon <sharon_gibbons@fws.gov>

Subject: Attached LOA. Please let know if you have problems opening documents.

1 message

Gibbons, Sharon <sharon_gibbons@fws.gov>

Wed, Feb 4, 2015 at 12:17 PM

To: "dawn.winalski@north-slope.org" <dawn.winalski@north-slope.org>, "dick.shideler@alaska.gov" <dick.shideler@alaska.gov>, Ryan Noel <ryan_noel@fws.gov>, Shannon Torrence <shannon_torrence@fws.gov>

Sharon Gibbons

Marine Mammal Management

Administrative Support

1011 East Tudor RD.

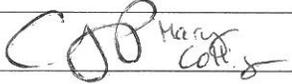
Anchorage Alaska 99503-6199

(Phone) 907-786-3801 (fax) 907-786-3816

5 attachments

-  **01-29-15 Christina May LOA 15-06 BPXA.pdf**
228K
-  **01-29-15 Jennifer Henderson LOA 15-05 and 15-INT-03.pdf**
343K
-  **01-29-15 Susan Childs LOA 15-CS-01.pdf**
82K
-  **01-29-15 Brien Peep LOA 15-07 and LOA 15-INT-04.pdf**
426K
-  **01-29-15 William Britt LOA 15-08 and 15-INT-05.pdf**
401K

Surname/Note to Reviewer

TITLE	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
CHIEF, MMM			1/29/15
SUPERVISOR			23 Jan 15
TYPIST			
AUTHOR	Christopher Putnam		23 Jan 15

1 question

26 Jan 15
29 Jan 15

This letter serves as an amendment to Letter of Authorization (LOA) 15-CS-01 for the incidental take of polar bears and Pacific walrus in association with the Shell Exploration and Production (Shell) 2015/2016 Ice Overflight Surveys in the Chukchi Sea, Alaska.

The original LOA should have included Pacific walrus, this amendment corrects that omission.