



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

'AUG 6 2014

Mr. Charlie Kominas
Safety, Security, Health, and Environment Manager
Alaska LNG Project
ExxonMobil Alaska LNG LLC
16945 Northchase Drive, DEV-GP4-498
Houston, Texas 77060

Dear Mr. Kominas:

We have received your request, dated July 23, 2014, for a Letter of Authorization (LOA) for the incidental take of polar bears and Pacific walrus during activities associated with the ExxonMobil Alaska LNG LLC (Exxon) 2014 Marine Studies Program for the Alaska LNG Project in Stefansson Sound/Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

In response, and in accordance with regulations listed at 76 FR 47010, dated August 3, 2011, enclosed is **LOA 14-11** authorizing Exxon to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to oil and gas exploration activities. The scope of the marine studies will include a bathymetric survey and a marine sediment and biological sampling program. The bathymetric survey will be conducted to define bathymetric contours and determine dredged material quantities required to allow barge access into Dockhead 2 at West Dock. The marine sediment and biological sampling program will occur within the same general study area. Its purpose is to collect baseline sediment and biological data at potential dredge disposal sites. Both field studies will utilize a shallow draft vessel, such as the R/V Annika Marie, and a small inflatable boat. The field studies will each require approximately one week to complete and will occur between August 1- and October 1, 2014.

A full description of activities (Section 1.2 Project Location and Activities) can be found in Exxon's request for an LOA dated July 23, 2014, Alaska LNG 2014 Open Water Marine Studies Attachment A - Wildlife Interaction Plan Polar Bear and Pacific Walrus, USAKE-PT-SGPER-00-0183-001.

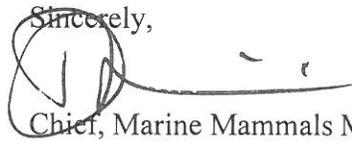
All provisions contained within Exxon's Wildlife Interaction Plan, Attachment A - Wildlife Interaction Plan Polar Bear and Pacific Walrus, USAKE-PT-SGPER-00-0183-001, are incorporated

by reference into this LOA. Exxon personnel may limit encounters with polar bears and Pacific walruses by being observant of approaching animals (i.e., the use of polar bear guards) and where practicable, by allowing the animals to pass unhindered. Exxon will also: 1) Provide copies of the observation forms to all contractors operating under the LOA; 2) report any sightings of polar bears or Pacific walruses, or signs of polar bears, such as tracks or excavations, to this office by phone or using observation forms within 24 hours; and, 3) report any possible polar bear den locations that are found during work activities immediately to our office. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) biologists are available for consultation if questions or concerns arise during the project period at the phone numbers listed below and noted in your interaction plan.

Polar bear and Pacific walruses conservation has benefited from monitoring programs associated with the Incidental Take Program since 1993. Monitoring serves to assess the effect of industrial activities on polar bears and Pacific walruses by evaluating trends and effects of encounter rates, take frequency, as well as the location and timing of encounters. If a polar bear interaction escalates into a life threatening situation, section 101(c) of the MMPA allows, without specific authorization, the take (including lethal take) of a polar bear if such taking is imminently necessary for self-defense or to save the life of a person in immediate danger, and such taking is reported to the Service within 24 hours.

The Service has completed intra-Service consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), on the issuance of this LOA and has determined that the issuance this LOA is not likely to jeopardize the continuing existence of polar bears so long as Exxon follows the terms/conditions of this LOA. No additional authorization under the ESA is required. If any changes develop during the project, such as activities or location, the Service must be notified 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. Craig Perham or Mr. Christopher Putnam of our Marine Mammals Management Office, at (907) 786-3810 or (907) 786-3844, respectively.

Sincerely,

Chief, Marine Mammals Management

Enclosures

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



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION Incidental Take (14-11)

ISSUED: August 1, 2014
EXPIRES: October 31, 2014

ExxonMobil Alaska LNG LLC (Exxon) is hereby authorized to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to activities occurring during the 2014 Marine Studies Program for the Alaska LNG Project in Stefansson Sound/Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

The scope of the marine studies will include a bathymetric survey and a marine sediment and biological sampling program. The bathymetric survey will be conducted to define bathymetric contours and determine dredged material quantities required to allow barge access into Dockhead 2 at West Dock. The marine sediment and biological sampling program will occur within the same general study area. Its purpose is to collect baseline sediment and biological data at potential dredge disposal sites. Both field studies will utilize a shallow draft vessel, such as the R/V Annika Marie, and a small inflatable boat. The field studies will each require approximately one week to complete and will occur between August 1- and October 1, 2014. A full description of activities (*Section 1.2 Project Location and Activities*) can be found in Exxon's request for an LOA dated July 23, 2014, *Alaska LNG 2014 Open Water Marine Studies Attachment A - Wildlife Interaction Plan Polar Bear and Pacific Walrus, USAKE-PT-SGPER-00-0183-001*.

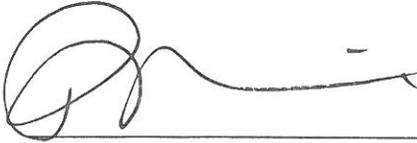
This Letter of Authorization (LOA) and the required conditions below apply to all Exxon employees, contractors and personnel performing Exxon-approved work under the scope of operations to be conducted. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Intentional take is prohibited under this LOA.

2. Exxon's Wildlife Interaction Plan, *Attachment A - Wildlife Interaction Plan Polar Bear and Pacific Walrus, USAKE-PT-SGPER-00-0183-001*, is approved and all provisions must be complied with unless specifically noted otherwise in this LOA.
3. A copy of this LOA and the approved interaction and avoidance plans listed above must be posted and available for all personnel and in the possession of the operators of all vessels and aircraft engaging in the activities approved under the authority of this LOA.
4. Exxon Operations Managers, or designates, must be fully aware, understand, and be capable of implementing the conditions of this LOA.
5. At the discretion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Exxon must allow the Service to place an observer on site, including any facilities, vessels, aircraft or vehicles, to monitor the impacts of the activity on marine mammals, when requested.
6. Polar bear monitoring, reporting and survey activities will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR § 18.128 and must comply with the following monitoring, mitigation and reporting requirements:
 - Exxon must cooperate with the Service, and other designated Federal, State, or local agencies to monitor the impacts of oil and gas exploration activities on polar bears.
 - If any changes develop in the project during the period approved under this LOA, such as activities, location or methods, Exxon must notify the Service, Marine Mammals Management Office (MMM) prior to the implementation of such changes.
 - Exxon must designate a qualified individual or individuals to observe, record, and report the effects of the activity on polar bears to the Service within 24 hours of visual observation.
 - Exxon must submit an annual monitoring report to the Service, MMM as required under 50 CFR § 18.128, which will be received no later than 90 days after the expiration date of the LOA.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Craig Perham or Mr. Christopher Putnam of our Marine Mammals Management Office, at (907) 786-3810 or (907) 786-3844, respectively.

This Letter of Authorization is valid for the period indicated on this authorization, unless extended or terminated in writing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'P' followed by a long, horizontal stroke that ends in a small hook.

Chief, Marine Mammals Management

8/6/14

Date