



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



AFES/MMM

AUG 19 2008

Mr. Craig Haynes
Alaska Production Manager
Joint Interest U.S.
ExxonMobil Production Company
P.O. Box 196601
Anchorage, Alaska 99519

Dear Mr. Haymes:

This responds to your June 12, 2008, request for Letters of Authorization (LOA) for the incidental take of polar bears and Pacific walrus and the intentional take of polar bears in regards to the ExxonMobil Production Company (Exxon) 2008 equipment staging and site preparation work for the Point Thomson Drilling Program.

Enclosed is a LOA (08-14) that would allow Exxon to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to oil and gas industry exploration activities identified in your LOA request. Exxon proposes to stage equipment and fuel for use in ice road construction and other operations and to conduct site work at the existing Point Thomson unit #3 well pad. The proposed start date for this project is mid August 2008. Support of the operation will be by vessel and aircraft. The proposed work includes:

- 1) facilitating the removal of equipment currently stored on the pad;
- 2) placement of ice road equipment, a 30-man camp, fuel storage tanks, and fuel associated with ice road construction;
- 3) maintenance and site preparation of the existing pad; and
- 4) installation of well cellar(s) and conductor(s).

If any changes develop in your project during the 2008 project season, such as barge schedules or traffic, activities or location, please notify the Marine Mammals Management Office prior to the planned operation. This would allow us to evaluate the activity and, if appropriate, amend your LOA.

This letter, through a separate authorization, also grants Exxon authority to take polar bears by harassment (deterrence activities) for the protection of both human life and polar bears while

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conducting activities in polar bear habitat. This authorization allows only the harassment or deterrence of polar bears and does not authorize lethal take of a polar bear. This authorization is issued specifically to Exxon employees who are responsible for ensuring that trained and qualified personnel are assigned the task to harass (deter) polar bears. All polar bear harassment events are to be reported to our Marine Mammals Management Office within 24 hours. Observation forms can be faxed or emailed to our office. This authorization is effective from the date of issuance to November 30, 2008. Intentional take is authorized under sections 101(a)(4)(A), 109(h), and 112(c) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). A final report of all encounters and hazing events is due 60 days after the expiration of this authorization (by approximately January 31, 2009).

In addition to protection measures for marine mammals described in the Exxon polar bear interaction plan (ExxonMobil Corporation, Point Thomson Drilling Program, Equipment Staging and Pad Preparation Project, Polar Bear and Wildlife Interaction Plan, 14 pp.), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) believes that Exxon personnel can limit human/polar bear interactions by being observant of approaching animals (i.e., the use of marine mammal observers) and breaking off interactions, if practicable, by allowing the animals to continue their travel. The Service biologists are available for consultation if questions or concerns arise regarding polar bears and walrus during the project period at the phone numbers listed below and noted in your interaction plan.

The Service expects Exxon to avoid any situations where the application of deterrents involves a safety risk to personnel. 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 in self-defense or to save the life of a person in immediate danger, and such taking is reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammal Management Office within 24 hours.

Furthermore, in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), issuance of this LOA also fulfills the requirements for Tier 2 Consultation of the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the activities described herein. In the "Programmatic Biological Opinion for Polar Bears (*Ursus maritimus*) on Beaufort Sea Incidental Take Regulations" (June 2008; Tier 1 BO), the Service determined that the total take anticipated as a result of the issuance of the Regulations is not likely to result in jeopardy to the polar bear, in accordance with section 7 of the ESA. In order for the Tier 2 BO to be consistent with the "no jeopardy" conclusion of the Tier 1 BO and for an ESA incidental take statement (ITS) to be provided: (1) the proposed activity must provide the required information, as described in §18.124 of the Regulations, (2) the LOA must include any mitigation measures that the Marine Mammals Management Office (MMM) believes appropriate for the specific activity and location, as described in §18.128 of the Regulations, and (3) the MMM must determine that the incidental take for the specific activity will be consistent with the negligible impact finding for the total take allowed under the Regulations.

Mr. Craig Haynes

3

Reasonable and prudent mitigation measures, as well as implementing terms and conditions were included for MMM in the Tier 1 BO and have been incorporated into the LOA process. Issuance of this ITS with the LOA completes ESA requirements for authorization of incidental take of the polar bear. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this LOA insures that the LOA holder is also in compliance with the ESA.

An additional requirement of this LOA is to provide observational data of polar bears throughout the project and a complete report of all observations at the conclusion of the project to document take. This final report will be provided to the MMM. This report meets the tracking and reporting requirements relative to the documentation of take as required by the MMPA and the ESA.

In addition, please make the following changes in the Exxon's, "Polar Bear and Wildlife Interaction Plan:" 1) remove Scott Schliebe as a Service contact (page 5) and replace his name with Tom Evans (786-3814), 2) The daily polar bear sighting log form (page 10) needs to be replaced with a version of the enclosed examples of updated polar bear and walrus monitoring forms. A version of these new forms should be used as a template for future polar bear and walrus sighting reports.

This authorization is issued in accordance with Service regulations listed at 71 FR 43926, dated August 2, 2006. Should you have any further questions contact Mr. Craig Perham of our Marine Mammals Management Office at (907) 786-3800 or 786-3810.

Sincerely,



Rosa Meehan, Ph.D.
Chief, Marine Mammals Management

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Rob Dragnich, ExxonMobil Production Company
Mr. Richard Shideler, ADF&G
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office (FFWFO)
USFWS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice to ensure transparency and accountability. This practice is essential for both internal audits and external reporting.

In addition, the document highlights the need for regular reconciliation of accounts. By comparing the internal records with bank statements and other external sources, any discrepancies can be identified and corrected promptly. This helps in maintaining the integrity of the financial data.

Furthermore, it is advised to use standardized accounting codes and descriptions for all entries. This consistency makes it easier to analyze and compare financial data over time and across different departments. It also facilitates the preparation of financial statements and tax returns.

Finally, the document stresses the importance of keeping records for a sufficient period. This is not only a legal requirement but also a practical one, as it allows for the review of past transactions in case of any disputes or investigations.

Overall, the document provides a comprehensive overview of the best practices for financial record-keeping. It serves as a valuable guide for anyone responsible for managing the financial affairs of an organization, ensuring that all transactions are properly documented and reported.



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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



MMM

ISSUED: August 15, 2008
EXPIRES: November 30, 2008

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION (08-14)

ExxonMobil Production Company (Exxon) is hereby authorized to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to activities occurring during the 2008 Equipment Staging and Site Preparation Work for the Point Thomson Drilling Program. A detailed description of the authorized activities can be found in the, "Point Thomson Drilling Program, Equipment Staging and Pad Preparation Project Description," dated June 11, 2008.

The LOA is valid from the date of issuance to November 30, 2008. This authorization and the required conditions below apply to contractors of Exxon performing Exxon-approved work under the scope of operations identified in the Point Thomson Drilling Plan. Exxon proposes to stage equipment and fuel for use in ice road construction and other operation and conduct site work at the existing Point Thomson unit #3 well pad. The proposed start date for this project is mid August 2008. Support of the operation will be by vessel and aircraft. The proposed work includes:

1. facilitating the removal of equipment currently stored on the pad;
2. placement of ice road equipment, a 30-man camp, fuel storage tanks, and fuel associated with ice road construction;
3. maintenance and site preparation of the existing pad; and
4. installation of well cellar(s) and conductor(s).

This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. The Operations Manager will be fully aware, understand and capable of implementing the conditions of this authorization.
2. This Authorization is valid only for activities (including support vessels and aircraft) associated with Exxon's 2008 equipment staging and site preparation work for the Point Thomson Drilling Program, as specified in Exxon's June 11, 2008 application.

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3. The Polar Bear Interaction Plan (ExxonMobil Corporation, Point Thomson Drilling Program, Equipment Staging and Pad Preparation Project, Polar Bear and Wildlife Interaction Plan, 14 pp.) is hereby approved, and all provisions unless specifically noted are incorporated into this authorization by reference.

4. The species authorized for taking by Level B Harassment only are: Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*), and polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*). The taking of any walrus or polar bear in a manner prohibited under this authorization must be reported within 24 hours of the taking to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Incidental Take Coordinator in Anchorage Alaska (907-786-3800).

5. The holder of this Authorization is required to cooperate with the Service and any other Federal, state or local agency monitoring the impacts of the activity on walruses and polar bears.

6. At the discretion of the Service, the operator will allow the Service to place an observer on site (vessels, aircraft, and field camps) to monitor the impacts of the activity on Pacific walruses and polar bears.

7. Prohibitions:

(a) The taking, by incidental Level B harassment only, is limited to the species listed under condition 4 above. The taking by Level A harassment, serious injury, or death of these species is prohibited and may result in the modification, suspension or revocation of this Authorization.

(b) The taking of any walrus or polar bear whenever the required marine mammal mitigation and monitoring measures (conditions 8 and 9) have not been fully implemented as required by this Authorization, is prohibited.

8. Polar bear and walrus monitoring and mitigation must be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR Section 18.118. In addition, Exxon must comply with the following monitoring, mitigation, and reporting requirements:

(a) *General Mitigation:*

The holder of this Authorization is required to:

(i) (A) Avoid concentrations or groups of walruses and polar bears hauled out onto land or ice by all vessels under the direction of Exxon. Operators of vessels and aircraft should, at all times, conduct their activities at the maximum distance possible from known or observed concentrations of animals. Under no circumstances, other than an emergency, should vessels operate within ½ mile (805 meters) of walruses or polar bears observed on land or ice. Under no circumstances, other than an emergency, should aircraft operate at an altitude lower than 1,500 feet when within ½ mile of any walrus or polar bear observed on land or ice; and,

(B) When weather conditions do not allow a 1,500-foot flying altitude, such as during severe storms or when cloud cover is low, aircraft may be operated below the 1,500-foot altitude stipulated above. However, when aircraft are operated at altitudes below 1,500 feet because of weather conditions, the operator must avoid known walrus and polar bear concentration areas and should take precautions to avoid flying directly over or within ½ mile of known walrus and polar bear concentration areas.

(ii) Take every precaution to avoid harassment of walruses or polar bears in water when a vessel is operated near these animals. Vessels must reduce speed when walruses or polar bears are observed in the water. Vessels capable of steering around these animals must do so. Vessels may not be operated in such a way as to separate members of a group of walruses or polar bears from other members of the group.

9. Monitoring:

(a) *Vessel Monitoring:*

(i) The holder of this Authorization must designate biologically-trained, marine mammal observers (MMOs) to be onboard any vessel.

(ii) MMOs will monitor to:

(A) Ensure that no walruses and polar bears enter the appropriate safety zones of 800m during vessel operations.

(B) Record marine mammal activity as described in condition 9(a)(v) below.

(iii) The vessel crew also must be instructed to keep watch for walruses and polar bears at all times. If any are sighted, the bridge watch-stander must immediately notify the MMO on-watch.

(iv) For each walrus or polar bear sighting, MMOs will record the following:

(A) Species, group size, age/size/sex categories (if determinable), behavioral activity, heading (if consistent), bearing and distance from vessel, and apparent reaction of animals seen near the vessel.

(B) Time, location, heading, speed, and activity of the vessel, along with sea state, ice cover, visibility, cloud cover and sun glare at any time a marine mammal is sighted.

10. Reporting:

(a) *Weekly summary of walrus and polar bear sightings.* The operator must tabulate and report all walrus and polar bear sightings recorded by the MMOs to the Service on a weekly basis.

(b) *Notification of incident report.* The operator must report:

(A) any incidental lethal take or injury of a polar bear or walrus; and,

(B) observations of walruses or polar bears within the 800m safety zone.

(c) *Post season monitoring report:* A draft report will be submitted to the Service within 90 days after the end of the marine program. The report will describe in detail:

(i) the operations that were conducted;

(ii) the results of the 2007 shipboard marine mammal monitoring;

(iii) marine mammal sightings (species, numbers, dates, times and locations);

age/size/gender, environmental correlates, activities, associated seismic survey activities);

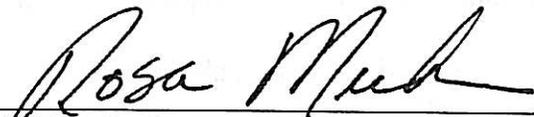
(iv) estimates of the amount and nature of potential take (exposure) of walruses and polar bears (by species) by harassment or in other ways to industry sounds;

The draft report will be subject to review and comment by the Service. Any recommendations made by the Service must be addressed in the final report prior to acceptance by the Service. The draft report will be considered the final report for this activity under this Authorization if the Service has not provided comments and recommendations within 90 days of receipt of the draft report.

11. Activities related to the monitoring described in this Authorization do not require a separate scientific research permit issued under section 104 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

12. A copy of this Authorization and the Service-approved Polar Bear Interaction Plan must be in the possession of the operator of all vessels and aircraft engaging in the activity operating under the authority of this Letter of Authorization.

13. Per the "Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Beaufort Sea Incidental Take Regulations for Polar Bear (June 2008)", your request also triggers the second of the two-tiered programmatic process. In order for incidental take of the polar bear to be exempted from the prohibitions of the ESA, the LOA also serves as an "Incidental Take Statement" (ITS), required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). Issuance of the LOA/ITS fulfills the requirements for Tier 2 Consultation of the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the activities described in this letter.



Chief, Marine Mammals Management
US Fish and Wildlife Service

AUG 19 2008

Date



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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



AFES/MMM

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE, BY HARASSMENT, POLAR BEARS

ISSUED: August 15, 2008

EXPIRES: November 30, 2008

Under Sections 101 (a)(4)(A), 109(h), and 112(c) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, Exxon Offshore, Inc. (Exxon) is authorized to take, by harassment, polar bears during exploration activities in association with the 2008 Equipment Staging and Site Preparation Work for the Point Thomson Drilling Program. A detailed description of the authorized activities can be found in the, "Point Thomson Drilling Program, Equipment Staging and Pad Preparation Project Description," dated June 11, 2008.

The LOA is valid from the date of issuance to November 30, 2008. This authorization and the required conditions below apply to contractors of Exxon performing Exxon-approved work under the scope of operations to be conducted. Exxon proposes to stage equipment and fuel for use in ice road construction and other operations and to conduct site work at the existing Point Thomson unit #3 well pad. The proposed start date for this project is mid August 2008. Support of the operation will be by vessel and aircraft. The proposed work includes:

1. facilitating the removal of equipment currently stored on the pad;
2. placement of ice road equipment, a 30-man camp, fuel storage tanks, and fuel associated with ice road construction;
3. maintenance and site preparation of the existing pad; and
4. installation of well cellar(s) and conductor(s).

The purpose of authorizing take by harassment, or deterrence, is to maintain human and bear safety and welfare in the North Slope oilfields. Authorizing Level B harassment take reduces the likelihood of death or injury of polar bears. This is accomplished by the following objectives:

1. Prevent bears from associating food with humans and facilities;
2. "Train" bears to avoid people;
3. Allow bears to use travel routes (natural and man-made) to move along the coast;

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4. Prevent bears from extended use of areas around facilities;
5. Prevent bears from entering the developed parts of the oilfield.

Harassment authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. The Polar Bear Interaction Plan, "ExxonMobil Corporation, Point Thomson Drilling Program, Equipment Staging and Pad Preparation Project, Polar Bear and Wildlife Interaction Plan, 14 pp." is approved and all provisions must be complied with unless specifically noted otherwise in this Letter of Authorization. A copy of this polar bear interaction plan must be available on site for all personnel.
2. Exxon Operations Managers or their designates must be fully aware, understand, and capable of implementing the conditions of this authorization.
3. This authorization is restricted to harassment activities.
4. Authorized individuals are responsible for documenting and reporting to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, (907) 786-3800, all instances involving harassment as soon as possible and not later than 24 hours after the occurrence.
5. Activities will not operate nor pass within 1 mile of known polar bear dens, and all observed dens will be reported to the Marine Mammals Management Office, Fish and Wildlife Service immediately. Should occupied dens be identified within one mile of activities, work in the immediate area will cease and Service will be contacted for guidance. The Service will evaluate these instances on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate action. Potential responses may range from cessation or modification of work to conducting additional monitoring.
6. A final report of all encounters and hazing events must be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office within 60 days after the expiration date of this authorization.
7. Hazing techniques must not cause the injury or death of a bear. Types of hazing techniques may include, but are not limited to:
 - Bear Monitors;
 - Air horns;
 - Electric fences;
 - Chemical repellents;
 - Acoustic recordings;
 - Vehicles;
 - Projectiles: cracker shells, bean bags, rubber bullets, screamers, etc.

8. Prior to conducting a harassment activity, operators must:
 - Reduce/eliminate attractants;
 - Secure site; notify supervisor; move personnel to safety;
 - Ensure bear has escape route(s);
 - Ensure communication with all personnel.

9. When conducting a harassment activity, operators must:
 - Chose the method that will have the least effect on the bear and increase the intensity of the method or use additional methods only if necessary;
 - Shout at the bear before using projectile (avoidance conditioning);
 - Move bear in proper direction; continue with minimally necessary deterrents to receive desired result.

10. After a harassment event has occurred, operators must:
 - Monitor bear movement (to ensure no return);
 - Notify supervisor and personnel when it is safe to resume work;
 - Fill out a report to be sent to the Service as required under condition 4 (within 24 hours).

11. This 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.

Signed: _____

AUG 19 2008

Date: _____

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



AFES/MMM

DEC 2 2008

Mr. Craig Haynes
Alaska Production Manager
Joint Interest U.S.
ExxonMobil Production Company
P.O. Box 196601
Anchorage, Alaska 99519

Dear Mr. Haymes:

This letter supplements your June 12, 2008, request for Letters of Authorization (LOA) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the incidental take of polar bears and Pacific walrus in regards to the ExxonMobil Production Company (Exxon) 2008 equipment staging and site preparation work for the Point Thomson Drilling Program.

The original LOA (08-14), issued August 19, 2008, allowed Exxon to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to oil and gas industry exploration activities at the Point Thomson Unit #3 pad. Exxon proposed to stage equipment and fuel for use in ice road construction and other operations and to conduct site work at the existing Point Thomson Unit #3 well pad. Support of the operation will be by vessel and aircraft. The proposed work included:

- 1) facilitating the removal of equipment currently stored on the pad;
- 2) placement of ice road equipment, a 30-man camp, fuel storage tanks, and fuel associated with ice road construction;
- 3) maintenance and site preparation of the existing pad; and
- 4) installation of well cellar(s) and conductor(s).

The Service will amend LOA 08-14 to extend the time period of the authorization for a full calendar year. This is based on Rob Dragnich's request (October 9, 2008) for a time extension, where onsite staff will maintain equipment and security in preparation for the winter drilling period. All provisions contained within LOA 08-14 remain in effect for this amended LOA. A separate request for exploratory drilling will be required.

If any changes develop in your project during the 2008 project season you must notify the Marine Mammals Management Office prior to the planned operation. This would allow us to evaluate the activity and, if appropriate, amend your LOA.

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Mr. Craig Haynes

2

In addition, this letter, through a separate authorization, also amends the time period of Exxon's intentional take authorization. This authorization is effective to the amended date of August 15, 2009. Intentional take is authorized under sections 101(a)(4)(A), 109(h), and 112(c) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). A final report of all encounters and hazing events is due 60 days after the expiration of this authorization.

This authorization is issued in accordance with Service regulations listed at 71 FR 43926, dated August 2, 2006. Should you have any further questions contact Mr. Craig Perham of our Marine Mammals Management Office at (907) 786-3800 or 786-3810.

Sincerely,



Rosa Meehan, Ph.D.
Chief, Marine Mammals Management

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Rob Dragnich, ExxonMobil Production Company
Mr. Richard Shideler, ADF&G
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office (FFWFO)
USFWS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



MMM

ISSUED: August 15, 2008

AMMENDED EXPIRATION: August 15, 2009

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION, amended (08-14)

ExxonMobil Production Company (Exxon) is hereby authorized to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walruses incidental to activities occurring during the 2008 Equipment Staging and Site Preparation Work for the Point Thomson Drilling Program. A detailed description of the authorized activities can be found in the, "Point Thomson Drilling Program, Equipment Staging and Pad Preparation Project Description," dated June 11, 2008. The extension request (October 9, 2008) also contains additional information.

The LOA is valid from the date of issuance to the amended date of August 15, 2009. This authorization and the required conditions below apply to contractors of Exxon performing Exxon-approved work under the scope of operations identified in the Point Thomson Drilling Plan. Exxon proposes to stage equipment and fuel for use in ice road construction and other operation and conduct site work at the existing Point Thomson Unit #3 well pad. The proposed start date for this project is mid August 2008. Support of the operation will be by vessel and aircraft. The proposed work includes:

1. facilitating the removal of equipment currently stored on the pad;
2. placement of ice road equipment, a 30-man camp, fuel storage tanks, and fuel associated with ice road construction;
3. maintenance and site preparation of the existing pad; and
4. installation of well cellar(s) and conductor(s).

This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. The Operations Manager will be fully aware, understand and capable of implementing the conditions of this authorization.
2. This Authorization is valid only for activities (including support vessels and aircraft) associated with Exxon's 2008 equipment staging and site preparation work for the Point Thomson Drilling Program, as specified in Exxon's June 11, 2008 application.

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3. The Polar Bear Interaction Plan (ExxonMobil Corporation, Point Thomson Drilling Program, Equipment Staging and Pad Preparation Project, Polar Bear and Wildlife Interaction Plan, 14 pp.) is hereby approved, and all provisions unless specifically noted are incorporated into this authorization by reference.

4. The species authorized for taking by Level B Harassment only are: Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*), and polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*). The taking of any walrus or polar bear in a manner prohibited under this authorization must be reported within 24 hours of the taking to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Incidental Take Coordinator in Anchorage Alaska (907-786-3800).

5. The holder of this Authorization is required to cooperate with the Service and any other Federal, state or local agency monitoring the impacts of the activity on walruses and polar bears.

6. At the discretion of the Service, the operator will allow the Service to place an observer on site (vessels, aircraft, and field camps) to monitor the impacts of the activity on Pacific walruses and polar bears.

7. Prohibitions:

(a) The taking, by incidental Level B harassment only, is limited to the species listed under condition 4 above. The taking by Level A harassment, serious injury, or death of these species is prohibited and may result in the modification, suspension or revocation of this Authorization.

(b) The taking of any walrus or polar bear whenever the required marine mammal mitigation and monitoring measures (conditions 8 and 9) have not been fully implemented as required by this Authorization, is prohibited.

8. Polar bear and walrus monitoring and mitigation must be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR Section 18.118. In addition, Exxon must comply with the following monitoring, mitigation, and reporting requirements:

(a) *General Mitigation:*

The holder of this Authorization is required to:

(i) (A) Avoid concentrations or groups of walruses and polar bears hauled out onto land or ice by all vessels under the direction of Exxon. Operators of vessels and aircraft should, at all times, conduct their activities at the maximum distance possible from known or observed concentrations of animals. Under no circumstances, other than an emergency, should vessels operate within ½ mile (805 meters) of walruses or polar bears observed on land or ice. Under no circumstances, other than an emergency, should aircraft operate at an altitude lower than 1,500 feet when within ½ mile of any walrus or polar bear observed on land or ice; and,

(B) When weather conditions do not allow a 1,500-foot flying altitude, such as during severe storms or when cloud cover is low, aircraft may be operated below the 1,500-foot altitude stipulated above. However, when aircraft are operated at altitudes

below 1,500 feet because of weather conditions, the operator must avoid known walrus and polar bear concentration areas and should take precautions to avoid flying directly over or within ½ mile of known walrus and polar bear concentration areas.

(ii) Take every precaution to avoid harassment of walruses or polar bears in water when a vessel is operated near these animals. Vessels must reduce speed when walruses or polar bears are observed in the water. Vessels capable of steering around these animals must do so. Vessels may not be operated in such a way as to separate members of a group of walruses or polar bears from other members of the group.

9. Monitoring.

(a) *Vessel Monitoring:*

(i) The holder of this Authorization must designate biologically-trained, marine mammal observers (MMOs) to be onboard any vessel.

(ii) MMOs will monitor to:

(A) Ensure that no walruses and polar bears enter the appropriate safety zones of 800m during vessel operations.

(B) Record marine mammal activity as described in condition 9(a)(v) below.

(iii) The vessel crew also must be instructed to keep watch for walruses and polar bears at all times. If any are sighted, the bridge watch-stander must immediately notify the MMO on-watch.

(iv) For each walrus or polar bear sighting, MMOs will record the following:

(A) Species, group size, age/size/sex categories (if determinable), behavioral activity, heading (if consistent), bearing and distance from vessel, and apparent reaction of animals seen near the vessel.

(B) Time, location, heading, speed, and activity of the vessel, along with sea state, ice cover, visibility, cloud cover and sun glare at any time a marine mammal is sighted.

10. Reporting:

(a) *Weekly summary of walrus and polar bear sightings.* The operator must tabulate and report all walrus and polar bear sightings recorded by the MMOs to the Service on a weekly basis.

(b) *Notification of incident report.* The operator must report:

(A) any incidental lethal take or injury of a polar bear or walrus; and,

(B) observations of walruses or polar bears within the 800m safety zone.

(c) *Post season monitoring report:* A draft report will be submitted to the Service within 90 days after the end of the marine program. The report will describe in detail:

(i) the operations that were conducted;

(ii) the results of the 2007 shipboard marine mammal monitoring;

(iii) marine mammal sightings (species, numbers, dates, times and locations; age/size/gender, environmental correlates, activities, associated seismic survey activities);

(iv) estimates of the amount and nature of potential take (exposure) of walruses and polar bears (by species) by harassment or in other ways to industry sounds;

The draft report will be subject to review and comment by the Service. Any recommendations made by the Service must be addressed in the final report prior to acceptance by the Service. The draft report will be considered the final report for this activity under this Authorization if the Service has not provided comments and recommendations within 90 days of receipt of the draft report.

11. Activities related to the monitoring described in this Authorization do not require a separate scientific research permit issued under section 104 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

12. A copy of this Authorization and the Service-approved Polar Bear Interaction Plan must be in the possession of the operator of all vessels and aircraft engaging in the activity operating under the authority of this Letter of Authorization.

13. Per the "Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Beaufort Sea Incidental Take Regulations for Polar Bear (June 2008)", your request also triggers the second of the two-tiered programmatic process. In order for incidental take of the polar bear to be exempted from the prohibitions of the ESA, the LOA also serves as an "Incidental Take Statement" (ITS), required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). Issuance of the LOA/ITS fulfills the requirements for Tier 2 Consultation of the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the activities described in this letter.



Chief, Marine Mammals Management
US Fish and Wildlife Service

DEC 2 2008

Date



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



AFES/MMM

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE, BY HARASSMENT, POLAR BEARS

ISSUED: August 15, 2008

AMMENDED EXPIRATION: August 15, 2009

Under Sections 101 (a)(4)(A), 109(h), and 112(c) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, Exxon Offshore, Inc. (Exxon) is authorized to take, by harassment, polar bears during exploration activities in association with the 2008 Equipment Staging and Site Preparation Work for the Point Thomson Drilling Program. A detailed description of the authorized activities can be found in the, "Point Thomson Drilling Program, Equipment Staging and Pad Preparation Project Description," dated June 11, 2008.

The LOA is valid from the date of issuance to August 15, 2009. This authorization and the required conditions below apply to contractors of Exxon performing Exxon-approved work under the scope of operations to be conducted. Exxon proposes to stage equipment and fuel for use in ice road construction and other operations and to conduct site work at the existing Point Thomson unit #3 well pad. The proposed start date for this project is mid August 2008. Support of the operation will be by vessel and aircraft. The proposed work includes:

1. facilitating the removal of equipment currently stored on the pad;
2. placement of ice road equipment, a 30-man camp, fuel storage tanks, and fuel associated with ice road construction;
3. maintenance and site preparation of the existing pad; and
4. installation of well cellar(s) and conductor(s).

The purpose of authorizing take by harassment, or deterrence, is to maintain human and bear safety and welfare in the North Slope oilfields. Authorizing Level B harassment take reduces the likelihood of death or injury of polar bears. This is accomplished by the following objectives:

1. Prevent bears from associating food with humans and facilities;
2. "Train" bears to avoid people;
3. Allow bears to use travel routes (natural and man-made) to move along the coast;
4. Prevent bears from extended use of areas around facilities;

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5. Prevent bears from entering the developed parts of the oilfield.

Harassment authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. The Polar Bear Interaction Plan, "ExxonMobil Corporation, Point Thomson Drilling Program, Equipment Staging and Pad Preparation Project, Polar Bear and Wildlife Interaction Plan, 14 pp." is approved and all provisions must be complied with unless specifically noted otherwise in this Letter of Authorization. A copy of this polar bear interaction plan must be available on site for all personnel.
2. Exxon Operations Managers or their designates must be fully aware, understand, and capable of implementing the conditions of this authorization.
3. This authorization is restricted to harassment activities.
4. Authorized individuals are responsible for documenting and reporting to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, (907) 786-3800, all instances involving harassment as soon as possible and not later than 24 hours after the occurrence.
5. Activities will not operate nor pass within 1 mile of known polar bear dens, and all observed dens will be reported to the Marine Mammals Management Office, Fish and Wildlife Service immediately. Should occupied dens be identified within one mile of activities, work in the immediate area will cease and Service will be contacted for guidance. The Service will evaluate these instances on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate action. Potential responses may range from cessation or modification of work to conducting additional monitoring.
6. A final report of all encounters and hazing events must be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office within 60 days after the expiration date of this authorization.
7. Hazing techniques must not cause the injury or death of a bear. Types of hazing techniques may include, but are not limited to:
 - Bear Monitors;
 - Air horns;
 - Electric fences;
 - Chemical repellents;
 - Acoustic recordings;
 - Vehicles;
 - Projectiles: cracker shells, bean bags, rubber bullets, screamers, etc.

8. Prior to conducting a harassment activity, operators must:

- Reduce/eliminate attractants;
- Secure site; notify supervisor; move personnel to safety;
- Ensure bear has escape route(s);
- Ensure communication with all personnel.

9. When conducting a harassment activity, operators must:

- Chose the method that will have the least effect on the bear and increase the intensity of the method or use additional methods only if necessary;
- Shout at the bear before using projectile (avoidance conditioning);
- Move bear in proper direction; continue with minimally necessary deterrents to receive desired result.

10. After a harassment event has occurred, operators must:

- Monitor bear movement (to ensure no return);
- Notify supervisor and personnel when it is safe to resume work;
- Fill out a report to be sent to the Service as required under condition 4 (within 24 hours).

11. This 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.

Signed: 

Date: DEC 2 2008

1. The undersigned hereby certifies that the information furnished herein is true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

2. I understand that this information is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service for its use in determining my tax liability and that it may be made available to other government agencies.

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[Handwritten Signature]

DATE: 11/15/2011