



## Shell Exploration & Production

May 22, 2009

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Marine Mammals Management  
Attn: Craig Perham  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-341  
Anchorage, AK 99503

**Shell**  
3601 C Street, Suite 1000  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
**Tel.** (907) 646-7112  
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RE: Request for Letter of Authorization (LOA) for the Incidental Take of Polar Bears and Pacific Walrus, and the Intentional Take of Polar Bears by Harassment; 2010 Outer Continent Shelf Lease Exploration Plan, Chukchi Sea, Alaska

Dear Mr. Perham:

Shell Gulf of Mexico, Inc. (Shell) hereby requests a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the non-lethal incidental, unintentional “take” of small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus, and the intentional take of polar bears by harassment, which may occur during Shell’s planned 2010 Outer Continental Shelf Lease Exploration Plan, Chukchi Sea, Alaska. This letter is submitted to fulfill the requirements regarding incidental, unintentional take of protected marine mammals pursuant to 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 18. The governing regulations are entitled, *Nonlethal Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Oil and Gas Exploration, Development, and Production Activities in the Chukchi Sea*.

As described in the attached supporting documentation, Shell’s exploration drilling program is planned for various U.S. Department of Interior, Minerals Management Service (MMS) OCS lease blocks in the Chukchi Sea. Exploration drilling activities in Chukchi Sea are planned to begin on or about July 4 and run through October 31, 2010, depending on ice and weather.

As part of the application for obtaining an LOA, Shell has developed a Plan of Cooperation (POC) in accordance with 50 CFR § 18.124(c)(4). The POC will mitigate effects of Shell’s planned exploration drilling program where exploration activities would take place in or near a traditional Arctic subsistence hunting area and/or may affect the availability of a species or stock of marine mammal for Arctic subsistence uses. The POC was prepared in consultation with affected Chukchi Sea communities and marine mammal associations. During these meetings, Shell focused on lessons learned from prior years activities and presented mitigation measures for avoiding potential conflicts, which are outlined in the 2010 POC.

Any potential impacts from the planned projects on the polar bear and Pacific walrus populations of the Chukchi Sea will be short-term and transitory (i.e., the temporary displacement of individuals or small groups of marine mammals that may be exposed to the planned activities). The planned activities will not result in any permanent impact on habitats used by marine mammals or their prey. As outlined in the attached documents, Shell will take appropriate measures to prevent unreasonable impacts on the availability of marine mammals for subsistence users.

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Items required pursuant to 50 CFR 18 are attached. Those include: (1) the Polar Bear, Pacific Walrus, and Grizzly Bear Avoidance and Human Encounter/Interaction Plan (which includes a complete description of planned activities) (Attachment A); (2) the Marine Mammal Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (Attachment B); and the POC (Attachment C).

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact me at (907) 770-3700 or at [Susan.Childs@shell.com](mailto:Susan.Childs@shell.com), or Walt Sandel at (907) 646-7154 or at [walter.sandel@shell.com](mailto:walter.sandel@shell.com).

Sincerely,



Susan Childs  
Regulatory Affairs Manager, Alaska Venture

Attachments:

- Polar Bear, Pacific Walrus, and Grizzly Avoidance and Human Encounter/Interaction Plan
- Marine Mammal Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
- Plan of Cooperation

cc with attachment:

Jeff Walker, Minerals Management Service, Anchorage  
Joel Garlich-Miller, Marine Mammals Management, Anchorage  
Don Perrin, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage  
John Goll, Minerals Management Service, Anchorage  
Project File  
Administrative Record