



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

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INFORMATION**

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

SEP 22 2006

AFES/MMM

Mr. Dale Stotts
Land Chief
Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC)
6700 Arctic Spur Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Mr. Stotts:

This responds to Ron Nicholl's letter dated September 14, 2006, requesting a Letter of Authorization (LOA) for the Incidental Take of polar bears and Pacific walrus for the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) authorized intentional take for this project on January 12, 2006. On August 2, 2006, final regulations that authorize the non-lethal, incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus during year-round oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production operations in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska were issued for a period of five years. In accordance with these regulations, enclosed is a LOA (06-05) that allows UIC to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to activities occurring at the Cape Simpson Industrial Port (CSIP) during the remainder of the 2006 calendar year. These activities could potentially include: marine transportation and barging, barge off-loading, fixed and temporary camp operations, equipment and materials staging and storage, flight operations, equipment use, construction and maintenance, ice road construction, exploration site support.

Polar bear 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 by evaluating trends and effects of bear encounter rates, take frequency, as well as the location and timing of encounters. In addition, the Service believes that monitoring and protection measures for marine mammals described in UIC's Bear Avoidance and Human Encounter/Interaction plan are appropriate. In addition, 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.

Mr. Dale Stotts

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This authorization is issued in accordance with our 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,



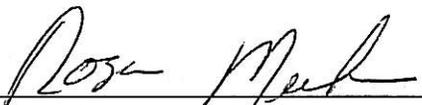
Rosa Meehan, Ph.D.
Chief, Marine Mammals Management

Enclosure

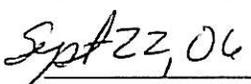
cc: Mr. Richard Schideler, ADF&G
Law Enforcement (LE)
FWFO

- designate a qualified individual or individuals to observe, record, and report the effects of the activity on polar bears and Pacific walrus;
- 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 within 24 hours. The Fish and Wildlife 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.
- at the discretion of the Fish and Wildlife Service, allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to place an observer on the site to monitor the impacts of the activity on polar bears;
- submit an annual monitoring report to the Marine Mammals Management Office, which will be received by January 15, 2007.

6. This authorization expires December 31, 2006.



Chief, Marine Mammals Management



Date

MMM

ISSUED: September 12, 2006
EXPIRES: December 31, 2006

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION
(06-05)

Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC) is hereby authorized to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to activities occurring at the Cape Simpson Industrial Port (CSIP) during the remainder of the 2006 calendar year. These activities could potentially include: marine transportation and barging, barge off-loading, fixed and temporary camp operations, equipment and materials staging and storage, flight operations, equipment use, construction and maintenance, ice road construction, exploration site support. This also includes contractors of UIC performing UIC-approved work under the scope of operations to be conducted.

Authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. The polar bear interaction plan is approved and all provisions, unless noted specifically, are incorporated into this Letter of Authorization by reference. A copy of the polar bear interaction plan must be available on site for all personnel.
2. UIC Operations Managers, or their designates, will be fully aware, understand, and capable of implementing the conditions of this authorization.
3. Intentional take is prohibited under this authorization.
4. This authorization is valid only for those activities identified in the request for a Letter of Authorization dated November 10, 2005.
5. Polar bear monitoring, reporting, and survey activities will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR 18, section 18.128. The basic monitoring and reporting requirements follow:
 - cooperate with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and other designated Federal, State, or local agencies to monitor the impacts of oil and gas exploration activities on polar bears and Pacific walrus;