

**B. Solicitation of Public Comment**

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

**Authority:** Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.

Dated: April 19, 2018.

**Anna P. Guido,**

*Department Reports Management Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R7-ES-2017-N181; FF07CAMM00-FX-ES111607MRG01]

**Marine Mammals; Letters of Authorization To Take Pacific Walrus and Polar Bears in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, Alaska**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued Letters of Authorization for the nonlethal take of polar bears and Pacific walruses incidental to oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production activities in the Beaufort Sea and the adjacent northern coast of Alaska and incidental to oil and gas industry exploration activities in the Chukchi Sea and the adjacent western coast of Alaska. These Letters of Authorization stipulate conditions and methods that minimize impacts to polar bears and Pacific walruses from these activities.

**ADDRESSES:** These letters of authorization are available electronically at the following location: <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/mmm/itr.htm>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Christopher Putnam at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 341, Anchorage, Alaska 99503; (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3844.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 5, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published in the **Federal Register** a final rule (81 FR 52276) establishing regulations that allow us to authorize the nonlethal, incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) and Pacific walruses (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*) during year-round oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production activities in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska. The rule established subpart J in part 18 of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and is effective through August 5, 2021. The rule prescribed a process under which we issue Letters of Authorization (LOAs) to applicants conducting activities as described under the provisions of the regulations. This rule replaced a similar rule, published on August 3, 2011 (76 FR 47010), which expired on August 3, 2016, and likewise prescribed a process under which we issued such LOAs.

Each LOA stipulates conditions or methods that are specific to the activity and location. Holders of LOAs must use methods and conduct activities in a manner that minimizes to the greatest extent practicable adverse impacts on Pacific walruses and polar bears and their habitat, and on the availability of these marine mammals for subsistence purposes. Intentional take and lethal incidental take are prohibited.

In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and our regulations at 50 CFR part 18, subpart J, we issued LOAs to each of the following companies in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska:

**BEAUFORT SEA LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION**

Company	Activity	Project	LOA No.
Shell Exploration and Production Company, Inc.	Support services .....	Ice surveys and helicopter search and rescue training.	15-01
Brooks Range Petroleum Corporation ..	Development .....	2015 Mustang Development Program ..	15-02
Global Geophysical Services, Inc .....	Exploration .....	Winter seismic work .....	15-03
Geokinetics, Inc .....	Exploration .....	Winter seismic work .....	15-04
Repsol E and P USA, Inc .....	Exploration .....	Exploration drilling in the Colville River Delta.	15-05
BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc .....	Exploration .....	Winter seismic work .....	15-06
ExxonMobil Development Company .....	Development .....	Point Thomson Project .....	15-07, 16-06, 16-17
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC .....	Exploration .....	Liberty Geotech and Shallow Hazard Survey.	15-08
Caelus Energy Alaska, LLC .....	Development .....	Nuna Project .....	15-09, 16-01, 16-12, 17-06
Olgoonik Specialty Contractors, LLC .....	Remediation .....	Point Lonely, Oliktok Point, and Bullen Point DEW line sites.	15-10
North Slope Borough .....	Production .....	Barrow pipeline upgrades .....	15-12, 17-08
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc .....	Exploration .....	Greater Moose's Tooth .....	15-15
ARSC Exploration, LLC .....	Exploration .....	Placer Unit exploratory drilling .....	15-16
Peak Oilfield Service Company, LLC ...	Support services .....	Transportation activities on the North Slope.	15-17, 17-01
SAExploration, Inc .....	Exploration .....	Aklaq seismic surveys on Canning and Sag River.	15-18, 16-03

BEAUFORT SEA LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION—Continued

Company	Activity	Project	LOA No.
Caelus Energy Alaska, LLC	Exploration	Tulimaniq Exploration Program in Smith Bay.	15–19, 16–09_a
Geokinetics, Inc	Exploration	“Great Bear” 3d seismic on North Slope.	15–20
Alaska Frontier Constructors, Inc	Development	Gravel removal in the Sag River	15–21
ExxonMobil Alaska, LNG, LLC	Exploration	Alaska LNG Project surveys	16–02, 16–18
Marsh Creek, LLC	Remediation	Legacy wells—Cape Simpson, Iko Bay, Barrow, and Avak.	16–04, 16–21
ENI U.S. Operating Company, Inc	Development	Nakaitchuq North at Spy Island	16–05
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc	Exploration	NPRA seismic exploration	16–08
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc	Exploration	Exploration drilling	16–09_b, 17–10
Fairweather, LLC	Exploration	Retrieval of mooring anchors in the Beaufort Sea.	16–10
Caelus Energy Alaska, LLC	Production	Oooguruk Project	16–11
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc	Production	CPAI North Slope Alpine and Kuparuk	16–13
BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc	Production	Prudhoe Bay	16–14
Savant Alaska, LLC	Production	Badami Project	16–15
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC	Production	Milne Point, Endicott, and Northstar Units.	16–16
Olgoonik Construction Services, LLC	Remediation	Barrow legacy wells	16–19
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc	Development	GMT–1 Construction	16–20, 17–09
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	Production	TAPS activities	16–22
Armstrong Energy, LLC	Exploration	Colville River Delta drilling and geotech	16–23
BEM Systems, Incorporated	Remediation	Oliktok radar site	17–03
BEM Systems, Incorporated	Remediation	Bullen Pt. radar site	17–04
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc	Exploration	“Bear” Winter Seismic East of Colville River.	17–05
BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc	Exploration	2017 Liberty Bathymetry Survey	17–07

On June 12, 2013, we published in the **Federal Register** a final rule (78 FR 35364) establishing regulations that allow us to authorize the nonlethal, incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus during year-round oil and gas industry exploration activities in the

Chukchi Sea and adjacent western coast of Alaska. The rule established 50 CFR part 18 subpart I and is effective until June 11, 2018. The process under which we issue LOAs to applicants and the requirements that the holders of LOAs must follow is the same as described

above for LOAs issued under 50 CFR part 18, subpart J.

In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA and our regulations at 50 CFR 18, subpart I, we issued LOAs to the following companies in the Chukchi Sea:

CHUKCHI SEA LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION

Company	Activity	Project	LOA No.
Shell Exploration and Production Company, Inc.	Support services	2015/2016 ice overflight surveys	15–CS–01
Shell Exploration and Production Company, Inc.	Exploration	Chukchi Sea exploration drilling	15–CS–02
Fairweather, LLC	Exploration	Retrieval of Shell’s mooring anchors in the Chukchi Sea.	16–CS–01
Olgoonik Fairweather, LLC	Exploration	Post Shell drillsite monitoring	16–CS–02

**Authority:** We issue this notice under the authority of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

Dated: January 4, 2018.

**Gregory E. Siekaniec,**  
Regional Director, Alaska Region.

**Editorial note:** This document was received for publication by the Office of the Federal Register on April 23, 2018.

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS–R7–ES–2018–N010;  
FXES111607MRG01–189–FF07CAMM00]

**Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities; Proposed Incidental Harassment Authorization for Northern Sea Otters in Cook Inlet, Alaska; Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment; Request for Comments**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application; proposed incidental harassment authorization; availability of draft environmental assessment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in response to a request under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, from Hilcorp Alaska, LLC, propose to authorize nonlethal, incidental take by harassment of small numbers of northern sea otters between May 23, 2018, and September 30, 2018. The applicant has requested this