

midazolam and butorphanol was allowed for use in the first cohort at 3, 5, and 7–8 weeks of age time points. A combination of midazolam and ketamine could have been used on 7–8-week-old pups, if deemed necessary. Metabolic and morphometric measurements were to be conducted on a second, separate cohort of five pups at each of the four time points. Sedation of seal pups in the second cohort, with a combination of midazolam and butorphanol, was only allowed for study animals at 3 weeks of age for the purposes of attaching an accelerometer tag. The permit holder was also allowed to conduct behavioral observations, imaging, and may disturb up to 350 Weddell seals. An additional seven Weddell seal pups, 15 Weddell seal adult females, and 20 crabeater seals were allowed to be disturbed during procedures on study animals. Up to two pup mortalities were requested per year, not to exceed three over the course of two field seasons. The permit holder was also allowed to collect tissues from Weddell seals (any age or gender) found dead from natural causes.

Now the applicant proposes a modification to the permit to allow the following: Sedation of all seal pups at all time points using midazolam with or without butorphanol (and continue to have the option of using midazolam in combination with ketamine at 7–8 weeks of age); collection of blood samples from seal pups in the second cohort, at all four time points, while the pups are under sedation; use of a cannulated biopsy needle for muscle tissue sampling of seal pups in the first cohort (rather than a dermal biopsy punch), at all four time points; attachment of a flipper-mounted VHF transmitter tag to seal pups in both cohorts at 3 weeks of age, on the flipper opposite the one with the time/depth tag attached, with removal at the final time point; attachment of accelerometer tags to the dorsal pelage of 1-week-old pups in both cohorts with removal of the tags at 3 weeks of age; administration of antibiotics to treat local or systemic infections in seal pups involved in the study; and increased takes of seal pups and adult females such that a total of 12 pups would be handled for study purposes compared with 10 in the original permit (six pups in each cohort compared with five in the original permit) and a total of 12 adult females, the mothers of the pups, would be disturbed during the handling of the pups (10 in the original permit). The permit holder has also requested a modification of NMFS Permit No. 21006.

*Location:* Erebus Bay, McMurdo Sound; ASPA 121, Cape Royds.

*Dates of Permitted Activities:* October 1, 2018—September 30, 2020.

3. *Description of Permit Modification Requested:* The Foundation issued a permit (ACA 2017–005) to David Ainley on July 27, 2016. The issued permit allows the permit holder and agents to enter three Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs); observe Adelie penguins; mark and measure penguin nests; attach tags, flipper bands, and special instruments to penguins; take small feather samples; and weigh and measure penguin chicks and adults. The permitted activities also include maintaining a webcam just inside the boundary of the Cape Royds ASPA.

Now the permit holder proposes a modification to the permit to attach a miniature video camera to adult Adelie penguins (n=40) to document activities during diving. The permit holder also proposes to engage the services of experienced pilots to operate remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) to capture video imagery of penguin colonies for the purposes of census and quantifying habitat characteristics. The RPAS operations would occur within the boundaries of ASPA 121, Cape Royds, and ASPA 124, Cape Crozier.

*Location:* ASPA 121, Cape Royds; ASPA 124, Cape Crozier; ASPA 105, Beaufort Island; Cape Bird (outside ASPA boundary).

*Dates of Permitted Activities:* October 1, 2018—February 5, 2020.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the following meeting:

*Name and Committee Code:* Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (9487).

*Date and Time:* October 24, 2018; 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (EDT); October 25, 2018; 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (EDT).

*Place:* National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Room E 2020, Alexandria, VA 22314.

*Type of Meeting:* Open.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Leah Nichols, Staff Associate, Office of Integrative

Activities/Office of Director/National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314; (Email: [lenichol@nsf.gov](mailto:lenichol@nsf.gov)). Telephone: (703) 292–2983).

*Minutes:* May be obtained from <https://www.nsf.gov/ere/ereweb/minutes.jsp>.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice, recommendations, and oversight concerning support for environmental research and education.

*Agenda:* Approval of minutes from past meeting. Updates on agency support for environmental research and activities. Discussion with NSF Director and Assistant Directors. Plan for future advisory committee activities. Updated agenda will be available at <https://www.nsf.gov/ere/ereweb/minutes.jsp>.

Dated: September 6, 2018.

**Crystal Robinson,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018–19781 Filed 9–11–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555–01–P**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Proposal Review Panel for Computing and Communication Foundations; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the following meeting:

*Name and Committee Code:* Proposal review panel for Computing and Communication Foundations (#1192)—Expeditions in Computing Division—Year 2 Site Visit at Cornell University.

*Date and Time:* September 12, 2018; 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.; September 13, 2018; 8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; September 14, 2018; 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

*Place:* BU George Sherman Union, Metcalf Hall, 775 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215.

*Type of Meeting:* Part-Open.

*Contact Person:* Sylvia Spengler, Expeditions in Computing Program, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; Telephone 703/292–8930.

*Purpose of Meeting:* Site visit to assess the progress of the EIC Award: CCF–1522054, “Collaborative Research: CompSustNet: Expanding the Horizons of Computational Sustainability,” and to provide advice and recommendations concerning further NSF support for the project.

### Agenda

*Wednesday, September 12, 2018*

7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.: Closed