



Incidental Harassment Authorization

Hilcorp Alaska, LLC (Hilcorp), 3800 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, is hereby authorized under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(5)(D)) and 50 CFR 216.107 to take, by Level B harassment only, small numbers of marine mammals incidental to conducting open-water shallow geohazard surveys in the U.S. Beaufort Sea, contingent upon the following conditions:

1. This Authorization is valid from July 1 through September 30, 2015.
2. This Authorization is valid only for activities associated with Hilcorp's 2015 Beaufort Sea shallow geohazard survey. The specific area where Hilcorp's shallow geohazard survey will be conducted lies within Foggy Island Bay in the U.S. Beaufort Sea, as shown in Figure 1 of Hilcorp's IHA application.
3. (a) The incidental taking of marine mammals, by Level B harassment only, is limited to the following species: bowhead whale; gray whale; beluga whale; ringed seal; bearded seal; and spotted seal, as shown in Table 1.

(b) The authorization for taking by harassment is limited to the following acoustic sources and from the following activities:
 - (i) Sonar sources used for shallow geohazard survey; and
 - (ii) Vessel activities related to the shallow geohazard survey.
(c) The taking of any marine mammal in a manner prohibited under this Authorization must be reported within 24 hours of the taking to the Alaska Regional Administrator (907-586-7221) or his designee in Anchorage (907-271-3023), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Chief of the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, at (301) 427-8401, or her designee (301-427-8418).
4. The holder of this Authorization must notify the Chief of the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, at least 48 hours prior to the start of shallow geohazard survey (unless constrained by the date of issuance of this Authorization in which case notification shall be made as soon as possible).

5. Prohibitions



(a) The taking, by incidental harassment only, is limited to the species listed under condition 3(a) above and by the numbers listed in Table 1. The taking by injury or death of these species or the taking by harassment, injury or death of any other species of marine mammal is prohibited and may result in the modification, suspension, or revocation of this Authorization.

(b) The taking of any marine mammal is prohibited whenever the required source vessel protected species observers (PSOs), required by condition 7(a)(i), are not onboard in conformance with condition 7(a)(i) of this Authorization.

6. Mitigation

(a) Establishing Zone of Influence (ZOI)

- (i) Establish and monitor with trained PSOs a ZOI zone surrounding the sub-bottom profiler on the source vessel where the received level would be 160 dB (rms) re 1 μ Pa for all marine mammals.
- (ii) The size of the ZOI is 50 m radius from the source vessel.

(b) Vessel Movement Mitigation:

- (i) Avoid concentrations or groups of whales by all vessels under the direction of Hilcorp.
- (ii) If any vessel approaches within 1.6 km (1 mi) of observed bowhead whales, except when providing emergency assistance to whalers or in other emergency situations, the vessel operator will take reasonable precautions to avoid potential interaction with the bowhead whales by taking one or more of the following actions, as appropriate:
 - (A) Reducing vessel speed to less than 5 knots within 300 yards (900 feet or 274 m) of the whale(s);
 - (B) Steering around the whale(s) if possible;
 - (C) Operating the vessel(s) in such a way as to avoid separating members of a group of whales from other members of the group;
 - (D) Operating the vessel(s) to avoid causing a whale to make multiple changes in direction; and
 - (E) Checking the waters immediately adjacent to the vessel(s) to ensure that no whales will be injured when the propellers are engaged.

- (iii) When weather conditions require, such as when visibility drops, adjust vessel speed accordingly, but not to exceed 5 knots, to avoid the likelihood of injury to whales.
- (iv) In general, the survey design will start in shallow water and work deeper to mitigate the potential “herding” effect.

(c) Mitigation Measures for Sonar Sources

- (i) Ramp-up:
 - (A) A ramp up, following a cold start, can be applied if the ZOI has been free of marine mammals for a consecutive 30-minute period. The entire ZOI must have been visible during these 30 minutes. If the entire ZOI is not visible, then ramp up from a cold start cannot begin.
 - (B) If a marine mammal(s) is sighted within the ZOI during the 30-minute watch prior to ramp up, ramp up will be delayed until the marine mammal(s) is sighted outside of the ZOI or the animal(s) is not sighted for at least 15 minutes for pinnipeds, or 30 minutes for cetaceans.
 - (C) If, for any reason, the sub-bottom profiler has been discontinued for a period of 10 minutes or more, ramp-up procedures shall be implemented. If the PSO watch has been suspended during that time, a 30-minute clearance of the ZOI is required prior to commencing ramp-up. Discontinuation of sonar activity for less than 10 minutes does not require a ramp-up.
 - (D) The survey operator and PSOs shall maintain records of the times when ramp-ups start and when the sub-bottom profiler reaches full power.
- (ii) Power-down/Shutdown:
 - (A) The sub-bottom profiler shall be immediately powered down whenever a marine mammal is sighted approaching close to or within the ZOI of the sub-bottom profiler at full power, but is outside the ZOI of the sub-bottom profiler at reduced power.
 - (B) If a marine mammal is already within or is about to enter the ZOI when first detected, the sub-bottom profiler shall be shutdown immediately.

- (C) After showdown for more than 10 minutes, ramp-up shall not start until after the marine mammal is visually seen left the ZOI; or 15 minutes have passed after the last detection of the marine mammal with shorter dive durations (pinnipeds and small odontocetes); or 30 minutes have passed after the last detection of the marine mammal with longer diver durations (mysticetes and large odontocetes, including beluga whales).
- (iii) Poor Visibility Conditions:
 - (A) If during foggy conditions, heavy snow or rain, or darkness, the full 160 dB ZOI is not visible, the sub-bottom profiler cannot commence a ramp-up procedure from a full shut-down.
 - (B) If the sub-bottom profiler has been operational before nightfall or before the onset of poor visibility conditions, they can remain operational throughout the night or poor visibility conditions.
- (iv) Firing Sub-bottom Profiler During Turns and Transits
 - (A) Throughout the shallow geohazard survey, during turning movements and short transits, Hilcorp will employ the use of the lowest setting for the sub-bottom profiler to deter marine mammals from being within the immediate area of the survey. The sub-bottom profiler would be operated at approximately one shot per minute and would not be operated for longer than three hours in duration.
- (d) Mitigation Measures for Subsistence Activities:
 - (i) For the purposes of reducing or eliminating conflicts between subsistence whaling activities and Hilcorp's survey program, the holder of this Authorization will participate with other operators in the Communication and Call Centers (Com-Center) Program. Com-Centers will be operated to facilitate communication of information between Hilcorp and subsistence whalers. The Com-Centers will be operated 24 hours/day during the 2015 fall subsistence bowhead whale hunt.
 - (ii) During the time when the Com-Centers are operational, all vessels shall report to the appropriate Com-Center at least once every six hours, commencing each day with a call at approximately 06:00 hours.
 - (iii) The appropriate Com-Center shall be notified if there is any significant change in plans. The appropriate Com-Center also shall be called regarding any unsafe or unanticipated ice conditions.

- (iv) Upon notification by a Com-Center operator of an at-sea emergency, the holder of this Authorization shall provide such assistance as necessary to prevent the loss of life, if conditions allow the holder of this Authorization to safely do so.
- (v) Hilcorp shall monitor the positions of all of its vessels and exercise due care in avoiding any areas where subsistence activity is active.
- (vi) Routing barge and transit vessels:
- (A) Vessels transiting in the Beaufort Sea east of Bullen Point to the Canadian border shall remain at least 5 miles offshore during transit along the coast, provided ice and sea conditions allow.
- (B) From August 31 to October 31, vessels in the Chukchi Sea or Beaufort Sea shall remain at least 20 miles offshore of the coast of Alaska from Icy Cape in the Chukchi Sea to Pitt Point on the east side of Smith Bay in the Beaufort Sea, unless ice conditions or an emergency that threatens the safety of the vessel or crew prevents compliance with this requirement. This condition shall not apply to vessels actively engaged in transit to or from a coastal community to conduct crew changes or logistical support operations.
- (C) Vessels shall be operated at speeds necessary to ensure no physical contact with whales occurs, and to make any other potential conflicts with bowheads or whalers unlikely. Vessel speeds shall be less than 10 knots in the proximity of feeding whales or whale aggregations.
- (D) If any vessel inadvertently approaches within 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of observed bowhead whales, except when providing emergency assistance to whalers or in other emergency situations, the vessel operator will take reasonable precautions to avoid potential interaction with the bowhead whales by taking one or more of the following actions, as appropriate:
- Reducing vessel speed to less than 5 knots within 900 feet of the whale(s);
 - Steering around the whale(s) if possible;
 - Operating the vessel(s) in such a way as to avoid separating members of a group of whales from other members of the group;

- Operating the vessel(s) to avoid causing a whale to make multiple changes in direction; and
 - Checking the waters immediately adjacent to the vessel(s) to ensure that no whales will be injured when the propellers are engaged.
- (vii) Hilcorp shall complete operations in time to allow such vessels to complete transit through the Bering Strait to a point south of 59 degrees North latitude no later than November 15, 2015. Any vessel that encounters weather or ice that will prevent compliance with this date shall coordinate its transit through the Bering Strait to a point south of 59 degrees North latitude with the appropriate Com-Centers. Hilcorp vessels shall, weather and ice permitting, transit east of St. Lawrence Island and no closer than 10 miles from the shore of St. Lawrence Island.

7. Monitoring:

(a) Vessel-based Visual Monitoring:

- (i) Vessel-based visual monitoring for marine mammals shall be conducted by NMFS-approved PSOs throughout the period of survey activities.
- (ii) PSOs shall be stationed aboard the survey vessels through the duration of the surveys.
- (iii) A sufficient number of PSOs shall be onboard the survey vessel to meet the following criteria:
 - (A) 100% monitoring coverage during all periods of survey operations in daylight;
 - (B) maximum of 4 consecutive hours on watch per PSO; and
 - (C) maximum of 12 hours of watch time per day per PSO.
- (iv) The vessel-based marine mammal monitoring shall provide the basis for real-time mitigation measures as described in (6)(c) above.
- (v) Results of the vessel-based marine mammal monitoring shall be used to calculate the estimation of the number of “takes” from the marine surveys and equipment recovery and maintenance program.

(b) Protected Species Observers and Training

- (i) PSO teams may consist of Inupiat observers and NMFS-approved field biologists.
- (ii) Experienced field crew leaders shall supervise the PSO teams in the field. New PSOs shall be paired with experienced observers to avoid situations where lack of experience impairs the quality of observations.
- (iii) Crew leaders and most other biologists serving as observers in 2015 shall be individuals with experience as observers during recent seismic or shallow hazards monitoring projects in Alaska, the Canadian Beaufort, or other offshore areas in recent years.
- (iv) Resumes for PSO candidates shall be provided to NMFS for review and acceptance of their qualifications. Inupiat observers shall be experienced in the region and familiar with the marine mammals of the area.
- (v) All observers shall complete a training course designed to familiarize individuals with monitoring and data collection procedures. The training course shall be completed before the anticipated start of the 2015 open-water season. The training session(s) shall be conducted by qualified personnel with extensive crew-leader experience during previous vessel-based monitoring programs.
- (vi) Crew members should not be used as primary PSOs because they have other duties and generally do not have the same level of expertise, experience, or training as PSOs, but they could be stationed on the fantail of the vessel to observe the near field, especially the area around the survey vessels, and implement a power-down or shutdown if a marine mammal enters the safety zone (or exclusion zone).
- (vii) If crew members are to be used as PSOs, they shall go through some basic training consistent with the functions they will be asked to perform. The best approach would be for crew members and PSOs to go through the same training together.
- (viii) PSOs shall be trained using visual aids (e.g., videos, photos), to help them identify the species that they are likely to encounter in the conditions under which the animals will likely be seen.
- (ix) Hilcorp shall train its PSOs to follow a scanning schedule that consistently distributes scanning effort according to the purpose and need for observations. All PSOs should follow the same schedule to ensure consistency in their scanning efforts.
- (x) PSOs shall be trained in documenting the behaviors of marine mammals. PSOs should record the primary behavioral state (i.e., traveling,

socializing, feeding, resting, approaching or moving away from vessels) and relative location of the observed marine mammals.

(c) Marine Mammal Observation Protocol

- (i) PSOs shall watch for marine mammals from the best available vantage point on the survey vessels, typically the bridge.
- (ii) Observations by the PSOs on marine mammal presence and activity shall begin a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the estimated time that the sub-bottom profiler is to be turned on and/or ramped-up. Monitoring shall continue during the survey operations and last until 30 minutes after the sonar equipment stop firing.
- (iii) For comparison purposes, PSOs shall also document marine mammal occurrence, density, and behavior during at least some periods when the sonar equipment used for survey is off.
- (iv) PSOs will scan the area around the vessel systematically with reticle binoculars (e.g., 7×50 and $16-40 \times 80$) and with the naked eye. GPS unit and laptop computer(s) will also be available for PSOs onboard survey vessels.
- (v) Personnel on the bridge shall assist the marine mammal observer(s) in watching for marine mammals.
- (vi) PSOs aboard the marine survey vessel shall give particular attention to the areas within the marine mammal ZOI around the source vessel, as noted in (6)(a)(i) and (ii). They shall avoid the tendency to spend too much time evaluating animal behavior or entering data on forms, both of which detract from their primary purpose of monitoring the exclusion zone.
- (vii) Monitoring shall consist of recording of the following information:
 - (A) The species, group size, age/size/sex categories (if determinable), the general behavioral activity, heading (if consistent), bearing and distance from survey vessel, sighting cue, behavioral pace, and apparent reaction of all marine mammals seen near the survey vessel (e.g., none, avoidance, approach, paralleling, etc);
 - (B) The time, location, heading, speed, and activity of the vessel (sub-bottom profiler firing or not), along with sea state, visibility, cloud cover and sun glare at (I) any time a marine mammal is sighted (including pinnipeds hauled out on barrier islands), (II) at the start and end of each watch, and (III) during a watch (whenever there is a change in one or more variable);

- (C) The identification of all vessels that are visible within 5 km of the survey vessel whenever a marine mammal is sighted and the time observed;
 - (D) Any identifiable marine mammal behavioral response (sighting data should be collected in a manner that will not detract from the PSO's ability to detect marine mammals);
 - (E) Any adjustments made to operating procedures; and
 - (F) Visibility during observation periods so that total estimates of take can be corrected accordingly.
- (vii) Distances to nearby marine mammals will be estimated with binoculars containing a reticle to measure the vertical angle of the line of sight to the animal relative to the horizon. Observers may use a laser rangefinder to test and improve their abilities for visually estimating distances to objects in the water.
 - (viii) PSOs shall understand the importance of classifying marine mammals as "unknown" or "unidentified" if they cannot identify the animals to species with confidence. In those cases, they shall note any information that might aid in the identification of the marine mammal sighted. For example, for an unidentified mysticete whale, the observers should record whether the animal had a dorsal fin.
 - (ix) Additional details about unidentified marine mammal sightings, such as "blow only," mysticete with (or without) a dorsal fin, "seal splash," etc., shall be recorded.
 - (x) When a marine mammal is seen approaching or within the exclusion zone applicable to that species, the marine survey crew shall be notified immediately so that mitigation measures described in (6) can be promptly implemented.

(d) Field Data-Recording and Verification

- (i) PSOs aboard the vessels shall maintain a digital log of shallow geohazard survey, noting the date and time of all changes in survey activity (ramp-up, power-down, shutdowns, etc.) and any corresponding changes in monitoring radii in a software spreadsheet.
- (ii) PSOs shall utilize a standardized format to record all marine mammal observations and mitigation actions (sub-bottom profiler power-downs, shut-downs, and ramp-ups).

- (iii) Information collected during marine mammal observations shall include the following:
 - (A) Vessel speed, position, and activity
 - (B) Date, time, and location of each marine mammal sighting
 - (C) Number of marine mammals observed, and group size, sex, and age categories
 - (D) Observer's name and contact information
 - (E) Weather, visibility, and ice conditions at the time of observation
 - (F) Estimated distance of marine mammals at closest approach
 - (G) Activity at the time of observation, including possible attractants present
 - (H) Animal behavior
 - (I) Description of the encounter
 - (J) Duration of encounter
 - (K) Mitigation action taken
- (iv) Data shall be recorded directly into handheld computers or as a back-up, transferred from hard-copy data sheets into an electronic database.
- (v) A system for quality control and verification of data shall be facilitated by the pre-season training, supervision by the lead PSOs, and in-season data checks, and shall be built into the software.
- (vi) Computerized data validity checks shall also be conducted, and the data shall be managed in such a way that it is easily summarized during and after the field program and transferred into statistical, graphical, or other programs for further processing.

(e) Passive Acoustic Monitoring

- (i) Hilcorp shall conduct passive acoustic monitoring using fixed hydrophone(s) to
 - (A) Document ambient noise conditions;

- (B) Examine the spatial and temporal distribution of marine mammals based on acoustic detections of their vocalizations; and
 - (C) Characterize the long-range propagation of sounds produced during the geohazard survey.
- (ii) Bottom-Mounted Acoustic Sensors:
- (A) Recorders shall be capable of recording marine mammal sounds and making both ambient and anthropogenic noise measurements.
 - (B) Two recorders be deployed near the Liberty prospect and be aligned with the geohazard survey line, at distances of 500 m (AMAR with sampling rate of 64 kHz) and 5000 m (AMAR with sampling rate of 380 kHz) from the offshore end of the survey line.
 - (C) Recorders shall be located inside of the barrier islands.

8. Data Analysis and Presentation in Reports:

(a) Estimation of potential takes or exposures shall be improved for times with low visibility (such as during fog or darkness) through interpolation or possibly using a probability approach. Those data could be used to interpolate possible takes during periods of restricted visibility.

(b) Hilcorp shall provide the information collected, plus a number of summary analyses and graphics to help NMFS assess the potential impacts of Hilcorp's survey. Specific summaries/analyses/graphics would include:

- (i) A table or other summary of survey activities (i.e., did the survey proceed as planned);
- (ii) A table of sightings by time, location, species, and distance from the survey vessel;
- (iii) A geographic depiction of sightings for each species by area and month;
- (iv) A table and/or graphic summarizing behaviors observed by species;
- (v) A table and/or graphic summarizing observed responses to the survey by species;
- (vi) A table of mitigation measures (e.g., power-downs, shutdowns) taken by date, location, and species;

- (vii) A graphic of sightings by distance for each species and location;
- (viii) A table or graphic illustrating sightings during the survey versus sightings when the sub-bottom profiler was silent; and
- (ix) A summary of times when the survey was interrupted because of interactions with marine mammals.

(c) Hilcorp shall collaborate with other industrial operators in the area to integrate and synthesize monitoring results as much as possible (such as submitting “sightings” from their monitoring projects to an online data archive, such as OBIS-SEAMAP) and archive and make the complete databases available upon request.

9. Reporting:

(a) Technical report: A draft technical report will be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, within 90 days after the end of Hilcorp’s 2015 open-water shallow geohazard survey in the Beaufort Sea. The report will describe in detail:

- (i) Summaries of monitoring effort (e.g., total hours, total distances, and marine mammal distribution through the study period, accounting for sea state and other factors affecting visibility and detectability of marine mammals);
- (ii) Summaries that represent an initial level of interpretation of the efficacy, measurements, and observations, rather than raw data, fully processed analyses, or a summary of operations and important observations;
- (iii) Summaries of all mitigation measures (e.g., operational shutdowns if they occur) and an assessment of the efficacy of the monitoring methods;
- (iv) Analyses of the effects of various factors influencing detectability of marine mammals (e.g., sea state, number of observers, and fog/glare);
- (v) Species composition, occurrence, and distribution of marine mammal sightings, including date, water depth, numbers, age/size/gender categories (if determinable), group sizes, and ice cover;
- (vi) Data analysis separated into periods when the sub-bottom profiler is operating and when it is not, to better assess impacts to marine mammals;
- (vii) Sighting rates of marine mammals during periods with and without the sub-bottom profiler (and other variables that could affect detectability), such as:
 - (A) Initial sighting distances versus survey activity state;

- (B) Closest point of approach versus survey activity state;
 - (C) Observed behaviors and types of movements versus survey activity state;
 - (D) Numbers of sightings/individuals seen versus survey activity state;
 - (E) Distribution around the survey vessel versus survey activity state; and
 - (F) Estimates of take by harassment;
- (viii) A clear comparison of authorized takes and the level of actual estimated takes;
 - (ix) Cumulative sound exposure level over 24 hours (cSEL₂₄), in particular during the use of the two sub-bottom profilers;
 - (x) Ground-truth of data collected by AMARs in consultation with biologists experienced in Arctic species vocalizations with error rates for automatic detection to ensure the accurate classification of vocalizations by species; and
 - (xi) Information of source levels and other acoustic characteristics of the active acoustics survey equipment, such as spectral content, and received levels in root-mean-squared (RMS) dB, sound exposure level (SEL), dB peak to peak and 1/3 octave bands.

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

(c) Hilcorp will share data and work with its contractor JASCO to collaborate with other researchers. The passive acoustic recording data, including data on marine mammal vocalizations, will be made publically available for researchers.

10. (a) In the unanticipated event that survey operations clearly cause the take of a marine mammal in a manner prohibited by this Authorization, such as an injury or mortality (e.g., ship-strike, gear interaction, and/or entanglement), Hilcorp shall immediately cease survey operations and immediately report the incident to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, at 301-427-8401 and/or by email to Jolie.Harrison@noaa.gov and Shane.Guan@noaa.gov and the Alaska Regional Stranding Coordinators

(Aleria.Jensen@noaa.gov and Barbara.Mahoney@noaa.gov). The report must include the following information:

- (i) Time, date, and location (latitude/longitude) of the incident;
- (ii) The name and type of vessel involved;
- (iii) The vessel's speed during and leading up to the incident;
- (iv) Description of the incident;
- (v) Status of all sound source use in the 24 hours preceding the incident;
- (vi) Water depth;
- (vii) Environmental conditions (e.g., wind speed and direction, Beaufort sea state, cloud cover, and visibility);
- (viii) Description of marine mammal observations in the 24 hours preceding the incident;
- (ix) Species identification or description of the animal(s) involved;
- (x) The fate of the animal(s); and
- (xi) Photographs or video footage of the animal (if equipment is available).

Activities shall not resume until NMFS is able to review the circumstances of the prohibited take. NMFS shall work with Hilcorp to determine what is necessary to minimize the likelihood of further prohibited take and ensure MMPA compliance. Hilcorp may not resume their activities until notified by NMFS via letter, email, or telephone.

(b) In the event that Hilcorp discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead PSO determines that the cause of the injury or death is unknown and the death is relatively recent (i.e., in less than a moderate state of decomposition as described in the next paragraph), Hilcorp will immediately report the incident to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, at 301-427-8401, and/or by email to Jolie.Harrison@noaa.gov and Shane.Guan@noaa.gov and the NMFS Alaska Stranding Hotline (1-877-925-7773) and/or by email to the Alaska Regional Stranding Coordinators (Aleria.Jensen@noaa.gov and Barabara.Mahoney@noaa.gov). The report must include the same information identified in Condition 10(a) above. Activities may continue while NMFS reviews the circumstances of the incident. NMFS will work with Hilcorp to determine whether modifications in the activities are appropriate.

(c) In the event that Hilcorp discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead PSO determines that the injury or death is not associated with or related to the activities

authorized in Condition 3 of this Authorization (e.g., previously wounded animal, carcass with moderate to advanced decomposition, or scavenger damage), Hilcorp shall report the incident to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, at 301-427-8401, and/or by email to Jolie.Harrison@noaa.gov and Shane.Guan@noaa.gov and the NMFS Alaska Stranding Hotline (1-877-925-7773) and/or by email to the Alaska Regional Stranding Coordinators (Aleria.Jensen@noaa.gov and Barbara.Mahoney@noaa.gov), within 24 hours of the discovery. Hilcorp shall provide photographs or video footage (if available) or other documentation of the stranded animal sighting to NMFS and the Marine Mammal Stranding Network. Hilcorp can continue its operations under such a case.

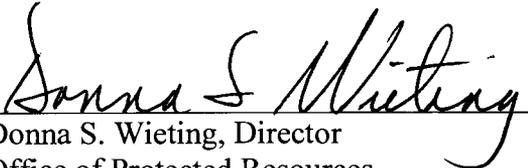
11. Activities related to the monitoring described in this Authorization do not require a separate scientific research permit issued under section 104 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

12. The Plan of Cooperation outlining the steps that will be taken to cooperate and communicate with the native communities to ensure the availability of marine mammals for subsistence uses, must be implemented.

13. This Authorization may be modified, suspended, or withdrawn if the holder fails to abide by the conditions prescribed herein or if the authorized taking is having more than a negligible impact on the species or stock of affected marine mammals, or if there is an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for subsistence uses.

14. A copy of this Authorization and the Incidental Take Statement must be in the possession of each survey vessel operator taking marine mammals under the authority of this Incidental Harassment Authorization.

15. Hilcorp is required to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Incidental Take Statement corresponding to NMFS' Biological Opinion.



Donna S. Wieting, Director
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service

JUN 29 2015

Date

Attachment

Table 1. Species and numbers of marine mammals allowed to be taken incidental to activities conducted under this IHA.

Species	Authorized Level B Take
Beluga whale (Beaufort Sea stock)	45
Bowhead whale	9
Gray whale	3
Bearded seal	87
Ringed seal	324
Spotted seal	103