



## INCIDENTAL HARASSMENT AUTHORIZATION

Gastineau Channel Historical Society (GCHS) is hereby authorized under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(5)(D)) to harass marine mammals incidental to Sentinel Island Moorage Float Project, Juneau, Alaska, when adhering to the following terms and conditions.

1. This Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) is valid from July 15, 2020 to September 20, 2020.
2. This IHA is valid only for in water construction activities associated with Sentinel Island Moorage Float Project near Juneau, Alaska.
3. General Conditions
  - (a) A copy of this IHA must be in the possession of GCHS, its designees, work crew personnel, and Protected Species Observers (PSOs) operating under the authority of this IHA.
  - (b) The species authorized for taking are humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), and harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*).
  - (c) The taking, by Level A and B harassment, is limited to the species listed in condition 3(b). Table 1 provides the authorized number of takes per species and stock.
  - (d) The taking, by injury (Level A harassment), serious injury, or death of any of species listed in condition 3(b) of this IHA is prohibited.
  - (e) The taking, by Level A harassment, Level B harassment, serious injury, or death, of marine mammal species not identified in condition 3(b) is prohibited.
4. Mitigation Measures

The holder of this IHA is required to implement the following mitigation measures:

  - (a) For in-water construction, heavy machinery activities other than pile driving (e.g., use of barge-mounted excavators, or dredging), if a marine mammal comes within



10 m, GCHS must cease operations and reduce vessel speed to the minimum level required to maintain steerage and safe working conditions.

- (b) GCHS is required to conduct briefings for construction supervisors and crews, the monitoring team, and GCHS staff prior to the start of all pile driving activity, and when new personnel join the work, in order to explain responsibilities, communication procedures, the marine mammal monitoring protocol, and operational procedures.
- (c) GCHS is required to employ 3 PSOs per the Monitoring Measures described in section 5 of this IHA and the Monitoring Plan, dated February 2020.
- (d) Shutdown zones for both impact and vibratory pile driving/drilling must be observed for all marine mammals (Table 2).
- (e) Marine mammal monitoring must take place from 30 minutes prior to initiation of pile driving activity through 30 minutes post-completion of pile driving activity. Pile driving may commence when observers have declared the shutdown zone clear of marine mammals. In the event of a delay or shutdown of activity resulting from marine mammals in the shutdown zone (Table 2), their behavior must be monitored and documented until they leave of their own volition, at which point the activity may begin.
- (f) If a marine mammal is entering or is observed within the established shutdown zone (Table 2), pile driving must be halted or delayed. Pile driving may not commence or resume until either the animal has voluntarily left and been visually confirmed beyond the shutdown zone; 15 minutes have passed without subsequent detections of small cetaceans and pinnipeds; or 30 minutes have passed without subsequent detections of large cetaceans.
- (g) Should environmental conditions deteriorate such that marine mammals within the entire shutdown zone would not be visible (e.g., fog, heavy rain), pile driving and removal must be delayed until the PSO is confident marine mammals within the shutdown zone could be detected.
- (h) GCHS must use soft start techniques when impact pile driving. Soft start requires contractors to provide an initial set of strikes at reduced energy, followed by a 30-second waiting period, then two subsequent reduced energy strike sets. A soft start must be implemented at the start of each day's impact pile driving and at any time following cessation of impact pile driving for a period of thirty minutes or longer.
- (i) If a species for which authorization has not been granted, or a species for which authorization has been granted but the authorized takes are met, is observed

approaching or within the Level B harassment or shutdown zones, pile driving activities must shut down immediately using delay and shut-down procedures. Activities must not resume until the animal has been confirmed to have left the area or the observation time period, as indicated in condition 4(b) above, has elapsed.

- (j) Pile driving activities can only be conducted during daylight hours.

## 5. Monitoring Measures

The holder of this IHA is required to abide by the following marine mammal monitoring measures:

- (a) Marine mammal monitoring must be conducted in accordance with the Marine Mammal Monitoring Plan, dated February 2020, associated with this IHA.
- (b) Marine mammal monitoring during pile driving must be conducted by NMFS-approved PSOs in a manner consistent with the following:
  - i. Independent PSOs (*i.e.*, not construction personnel) who have no other assigned tasks during monitoring periods must be used.
  - ii. Other PSOs may substitute education (degree in biological science or related field) or training for experience.
  - iii. Where a team of three or more PSOs are required, a lead observer or monitoring coordinator must be designated. The lead observer must have prior experience working as a marine mammal observer during construction.
  - iv. GCHS must submit PSO CVs for approval by NMFS prior to the onset of pile driving.
  - v. Three PSOs are required. A primary PSO would be placed at the site where pile driving would occur. The primary purpose of this observer is to monitor and implement the Level A shutdown zone. Two additional observers would focus on monitoring the Level B harassment zone. See Figure 2 of the monitoring plan for PSO locations.

## 6. Reporting

The holder of this IHA is required to:

(a) Submit a draft report on all monitoring conducted under the IHA within ninety calendar days of the completion of marine mammal monitoring or sixty days prior to the issuance of any subsequent IHA for this project, whichever comes first. A final report shall be prepared and submitted within thirty days following resolution of comments on the draft report from NMFS.

(b) The marine mammal report must contain the informational elements described in the Marine Mammal Monitoring Plan, dated February 2020, including, but not limited to:

- i. Dates and times (begin and end) of all marine mammal monitoring.
- ii. Construction activities occurring during each daily observation period, including how many and what type of piles were driven or removed and by what method (*i.e.*, impact or vibratory).
- iii. Weather parameters and water conditions during each monitoring period (*e.g.*, wind speed, percent cover, visibility, sea state).
- iv. The number of marine mammals observed, by species, relative to the pile location and if pile driving or removal was occurring at time of sighting.
- v. Age and sex class, if possible, of all marine mammals observed.
- vi. PSO locations during marine mammal monitoring.
- vii. Distances and bearings of each marine mammal observed to the pile being driven or removed for each sighting (if pile driving or removal was occurring at time of sighting).
- viii. Description of any marine mammal behavior patterns during observation, including direction of travel and estimated time spent within the Level A and Level B harassment zones while the source was active.
- ix. Number of individuals of each species (differentiated by month as appropriate) detected within the monitoring zone, and estimates of number of marine mammals taken, by species (a correction factor may be applied to total take numbers, as appropriate).
- x. Detailed information about any implementation of any mitigation triggered (*e.g.*, shutdowns and delays), a description of specific actions that ensued, and resulting behavior of the animal, if any.
- xi. Description of attempts to distinguish between the number of individual animals taken and the number of incidences of take, such as ability to track groups or individuals.
- xii. An extrapolation of the estimated takes by Level B harassment based on the number of observed exposures within the Level B harassment zone

and the percentage of the Level B harassment zone that was not visible for each species.

- xiii. Submit all PSO datasheets and/or raw sighting data (in a separate file from the Final Report referenced immediately above).
- (c) Reporting injured or dead marine mammals:

In the event that personnel involved in the construction activities discover an injured or dead marine mammal, the IHA-holder shall report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources (OPR) (301-427-8401), NMFS and to the Alaska regional stranding coordinator (907-586-7209) as soon as feasible. If the death or injury was clearly caused by the specified activity, the IHA-holder must immediately cease the specified activities until NMFS is able to review the circumstances of the incident and determine what, if any, additional measures are appropriate to ensure compliance with the terms of the IHA. The IHA-holder must not resume their activities until notified by NMFS. The report must include the following information:

- i. Time, date, and location (latitude/longitude) of the first discovery (and updated location information if known and applicable);
  - ii. Species identification (if known) or description of the animal(s) involved;
  - iii. Condition of the animal(s) (including carcass condition if the animal is dead);
  - iv. Observed behaviors of the animal(s), if alive;
  - v. If available, photographs or video footage of the animal(s); and
  - vi. General circumstances under which the animal was discovered.
7. This Authorization may be modified, suspended or withdrawn if the holder fails to abide by the conditions prescribed herein, or if NMFS determines the authorized taking is having more than a negligible impact on the species or stock of affected marine mammals.
8. Renewals - On a case-by-case basis, NMFS may issue a one-year Renewal IHA following notice to the public providing an additional 15 days for public comments when (1) up to another year of identical, or nearly identical, activities as described in the Specified Activities section of this notice is planned or (2) the activities as described in the Specified Activities section of this notice would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and a Renewal would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the Dates and Duration section of this notice, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to the needed Renewal IHA effective date (recognizing that the Renewal IHA expiration date cannot extend beyond one year from expiration of the initial IHA).
  
- (b) The request for renewal must include:
  - i. An explanation that the activities to be conducted under the requested Renewal IHA are identical to the activities analyzed under the initial IHA, are a subset of the activities, or include changes so minor (e.g., reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, mitigation and monitoring requirements, or take estimates (with the exception of reducing the type or amount of take).
  
  - ii. A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.
  
- (c) Upon review of the request for Renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the mitigation and monitoring measures will remain the same and appropriate, and the findings in the initial IHA remain valid.

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

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Date

Table 1. Authorized Amount of Taking, by Level A harassment and Level B harassment, by species and stock.

Species	Proposed Authorized Take	
	Level B	Level A
Humpback Whale	48	0
Minke Whale	1	0
Killer Whale	76	0
Harbor Porpoise	51	6
Dall's Porpoise	44	4
Harbor Seal Lynn Canal/Stephens Passage Stock	804	0
Steller Sea Lion (Eastern DPS) <sup>3</sup>	1467	0
Steller Sea Lion (Western DPS) <sup>3</sup>	21	0

Table 2. Shutdown Zones for Each Activity Type and Stock.

Source	Shutdown Zone – Permitted Species					Level B Harassment Zone
	Low-Frequency Cetaceans	Mid-Frequency Cetaceans	High-Frequency Cetaceans	Phocids	Otariids	All Species
Vibratory Pile Driving	80 m (265 ft)	10 m (35 ft)	120 m (395 ft)	50 m (165 ft)	10 m (35 ft)	12.1 km (7.5 miles)
DTH Drilling	140 m (460 ft)	10 m (35 ft)	165 m (213 ft)	75 m (246 ft)	10 m (35 ft)	12.1 km (7.5 miles)
Impact Pile Driving	185 m (605 ft)	10 m (35 ft)	220 m (720 ft)	100 m (325 ft)	10 m (35 ft)	1000 m (3280 ft)