



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND  
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5090  
Ser N46/004  
June 24, 2020

Ms. Donna Wieting  
Director, Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1315 East-West Highway  
SSMC3, Room 13821  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Dear Ms. Wieting:

The enclosed draft monitoring report is provided pursuant to the reporting requirements of National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the U.S. Navy's Ice Exercise 2020 (ICEX 20). The IHA required Navy to provide a monitoring report detailing any marine mammal sightings.

The exercise report, both unclassified and classified portions will be included in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) classified annual report in February 2021. Additionally, results of analysis of unclassified acoustic recordings during of ICEX 20 will be included in the AFTT Annual Monitoring report in April 2021.

Per the ICEX 20 IHA, if no comments are received from NMFS within 30 days of submitting this report, the draft final report shall constitute the final report. Please contact Laura Busch at (757) 836-8471, if you have any questions regarding this draft final report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Riker".

Tracy Riker  
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment  
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Draft ICEX 20 Monitoring Report

### Incidental Harassment Authorization Monitoring Report

The ice camp supporting ICEX 20 was operational from February 25 to March 27, 2020. During this time the ice floe upon which the camp was built shifted from approximately 135 nautical miles northeast of Deadhorse, Alaska to 173 nautical miles northeast of Deadhorse, Alaska.

Within the camp, the Camp Safety Watch was tasked specifically to monitor for marine mammals utilizing a visual camera, and a thermal imaging camera; each with pan, tilt, and zoom capability, as well as the naked eye. During the construction of the ice camp (prior to a dedicated Camp Safety Watch being in place) and during demobilization of the camp (after the Camp Safety Watch was disbanded), personnel still maintained a marine mammal lookout within the camp and during every movement between the camp and the runways. Additionally, a dedicated marine mammal watch was assigned to all Field Parties (i.e. any activity outside the immediate vicinity of the ice camp). Passive acoustic monitoring was conducted during all submarine activities (further detail to be included in the combined ICEX/Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing exercise report due April 2021). Table 1 provides the cumulative hours of effort monitoring for marine mammals and total observations of marine mammals.

Table 1

	Activity	Hours
<b>Monitoring effort</b>	Camp Buildup	60
	Camp Demobilization	84
	Camp Safety Watch	90
	Field Parties	96
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>330</b>
<b>Total observations</b>		<b>0</b>