



## INCIDENTAL HARASSMENT AUTHORIZATION

The National Park Service's (NPS) Glacier Bay National Park (GLBA NP) and/or its designees are hereby authorized under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(5)(D)) to harass small numbers of marine mammals incidental to conducting gull and climate research in Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska within Glacier Bay, Alaska.

1. This Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) is valid from March 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019.
2. This Authorization is valid only for research activities that occur at the following locations: Boulder, Flapjack, and Lone Islands, and Geikie Rock in GLBA NP, Alaska.
3. General Conditions
  - (a) A copy of this IHA must be in the possession of NPS, its designees, and field crew personnel (including research collaborators) operating under the authority of this IHA at all times.
  - (b) The species authorized for taking are harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*).
  - (c) The taking, by Level B harassment only, is limited to 283 harbor seals.
  - (d) The taking by injury (Level A harassment), serious injury, or death of any of the species listed in condition 3(b) of the Authorization or any taking of any other species of marine mammal is prohibited and may result in the modification, suspension, or revocation of this IHA.
  - (e) The NPS may conduct a maximum of five days of gull monitoring for each survey location listed in this IHA. In addition, the NPS may conduct a maximum of four days of activities related to climate monitoring on Lone Island.

4. Mitigation Measures

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

- (a) For Conduct pre-survey monitoring before deciding to access a study site; Prior to deciding to land onshore, NPS shall use high-powered image stabilizing binoculars before approaching at distances of greater than 500m to determine and document the number, species, and location of hauled-out marine mammals.



- (b) During pre-survey monitoring, vessels shall maintain a distance of 100 to 500m from the shoreline;
- (c) If NPS determines that a harbor seal pup less than one week of age is present within or near a study site or on a path to a study site, NPS shall neither access the island nor conduct the study at that time. In addition, if during the activity, a pup less than one week of age is observed, all research activities shall conclude for the day;
- (d) Maintain a distance of at least 100 m from any Steller sea lion (species name);
- (e) The NPS shall perform controlled and slow ingress to islands where harbor seals are present;
- (f) NPS shall select a pathway of approach farthest from the hauled-out harbor seals to minimize disturbance;
- (g) The NPS shall monitor for offshore predators at the study sites and shall avoid research activities when killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) or other predators are present; and
- (h) The NPS shall maintain a quiet working atmosphere and avoid loud noises in the presence of hauled-out pinnipeds.

5. Monitoring

The NPS is required to conduct marine mammal monitoring during gull and climate monitoring activities. Monitoring and reporting shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- (a) The Species counts (with numbers of adults/juveniles); and numbers of disturbances, by species and age, according to a three-point scale of intensity (Table 1).
- (b) Information on the weather, including the tidal state and horizontal visibility;
- (c) The observer shall note the presence of any offshore predators (date, time, number, and species); and
- (d) The observer shall note observations (1) unusual behaviors, numbers, or distributions of pinnipeds, such that any potential follow-up research can be conducted by the appropriate personnel, (2) marked or tag-bearing pinnipeds or carcasses, allowing transmittal of the information to appropriate agencies, and (3) any rare or unusual species of marine mammal for agency follow-up. The observer shall report that information to NMFS' Alaska Fisheries Science Center at (206) 526-4045 and/or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at

[shawna.karpovich@alaska.gov](mailto:shawna.karpovich@alaska.gov) (harbor seals) [dfa.dwc.sealions@alaska.gov](mailto:dfa.dwc.sealions@alaska.gov) (Steller sea lions), or [lori.quakenbush@alaska.gov](mailto:lori.quakenbush@alaska.gov) (whales).

## 6. Reporting

NPS 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. This report must contain the informational elements described in the Monitoring Section of this IHA, at minimum (see attached), and shall also include:
  - (i) Species counts (with numbers of adults/juveniles); and
  - (ii) Numbers of disturbances, by species and age, according to a three-point scale of intensity (See Table 1); and
  - (iii) Information on the weather, including the tidal state and horizontal visibility.
- (b) Reporting injured or dead marine mammals:
  - (i) In the unanticipated event that the specified activity clearly causes the take of a marine mammal in a manner prohibited by this IHA, such as an injury (Level A harassment), serious injury, or mortality, NPS shall immediately cease the specified activities and report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources (301-427-8401), NMFS, and the Alaska Regional Stranding Coordinator (877-925-7773), NMFS. The report must include the following information:
    1. Time and date of the incident;
    2. Description of the incident;
    3. Environmental conditions (e.g., wind speed and direction, Beaufort sea state, cloud cover, and visibility);
    4. Description of all marine mammal observations and active sound source use in the 24 hours preceding the incident;
    5. Species identification or description of the animal(s) involved;
    6. Fate of the animal(s); and
    7. Photographs or video footage of the animal(s).

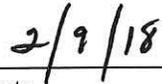
Activities shall not resume until NMFS is able to review the circumstances of the prohibited take. NMFS will work with NPS to determine what measures are necessary to minimize the likelihood of further prohibited take and ensure MMPA compliance. NPS may not resume their activities until notified by NMFS.

- (ii) In the event that NPS discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead observer determines that the cause of the injury or death is unknown and the death is relatively recent (*e.g.*, in less than a moderate state of decomposition), NPS shall immediately report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the Alaska Stranding Coordinator, NMFS. The report must include the same information identified in 6(b)(i) of this IHA. Activities may continue while NMFS reviews the circumstances of the incident. NMFS will work with NPS to determine whether additional mitigation measures or modifications to the activities are appropriate.
- (iii) In the event that NPS discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead observer determines that the injury or death is not associated with or related to the activities authorized in the IHA (*e.g.*, previously wounded animal, carcass with moderate to advanced decomposition, or scavenger damage), NPS shall report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the Alaska Stranding Coordinator, NMFS, within 24 hours of the discovery. NPS shall provide photographs or video footage or other documentation of the stranded animal sighting to NMFS.

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 and/or has an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability for subsistence uses on the species or stock of affected marine mammals.

FEB 09 2018

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

  
Date

**Table 1. Seal response to disturbance.**

Level	Type of response	Definition
1	Alert	Seal head orientation or brief movement in response to disturbance, which may include turning head towards the disturbance, craning head and neck while holding the body rigid in a u-shaped position, changing from a lying to a sitting position, or brief movement of less than twice the animal's body length. Alerts shall be recorded, but not counted as a 'take'.
2	Movement	Movements in response to the source of disturbance, ranging from short withdrawals at least twice the animal's body length to longer retreats over the beach, or if already moving a change of direction of greater than 90 degrees.
3	Flush	All retreats (flushes) to the water.

