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IN REPLY REFER TO:

3910  
Ser 322/070/20  
12 May 2020

To: Donna Wieting, Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Subj: Request for Renewal for Incidental Harassment Authorization for Office of Naval Research Arctic Research Activities  
Encl: (1) Incidental Harassment Authorization, September 9, 2019.

The Office of Naval Research requests a renewal of the Incidental Harassment Authorization to cover research activities in the Beaufort Sea from September 10, 2020 to September 10, 2021. The request follows the instructions provided in Encl (1).

### 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

ONR-supported scientists will continue their research as described in the existing IHA. This will involve acoustic transmissions from leave-behind sources in the time period September 10, 2020 to September 2021. It is possible that icebreaking activity will take place during cruises in Fall 2020 or Fall 2021. Previous analyses, take estimates and mitigation and monitoring requirements can remain in place, as the current IHA represents the analysis of icebreaking (2 cruises) and acoustic sources. The USCGC Healy is expected to be in the action area prior to September 10, 2020, so any takes occurring before that date would be covered by the existing IHA, and any takes after that date would be covered by the requested IHA.

### 2. MONITORING REPORT

Under our current methodology, the leave-behind sources are not monitored in-situ but acoustic data has been collected on receiver arrays in ONR experiments in the Canada Basin since 2015 and is available to the scientific community. A receiving array collecting data during the September 2019 and September 2020 time period will be retrieved in the fall of 2020. The current plan is to deploy a new receiving array in the fall of 2020. No animal was been sighted during any of the leave-behind source deployments on the 2019 or 2020 cruises, so no effects on marine mammals have been observed in-situ. The current IHA also gives the ONR the ability to deploy a spiral wave beacon source as part of research cruises, with an agreed-upon mitigation plan. The spiral wave beacon source was not deployed in 2019 so there was no opportunity to observe any effects on marine mammals in-situ. Inquiries about this renewal request should be made to Raymond Soukup, Office of Naval Research, 571-329-4772, [raymond.soukup@navy.mil](mailto:raymond.soukup@navy.mil).

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