

DRAFT INCIDENTAL HARASSMENT AUTHORIZATION

White Pass & Yukon Route (WP&YR) 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 the Railroad Dock Dolphin Installation Project in Skagway, Alaska, when adhering to the following terms and conditions.

1. This Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) is valid from February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020.
2. This IHA is valid only for in-water construction activities associated with the Railroad Dock Dolphin Installation Project in Skagway, Alaska.
3. General Conditions
 - (a) A copy of this IHA must be in the possession of WP&YR, 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, serious injury, or death of any of the species listed in condition 3(b) of this IHA is prohibited.
 - (e) Any taking of marine mammal species not identified in condition 3(b) is prohibited.

Table 1. Proposed authorized take numbers by species/stocks.

Species	Stock	Level A	Level B
Humpback whale	Central North Pacific	25	100
Minke Whale	Alaska	0	2
Killer whale	Alaska Resident	0	80
	Northern Resident		
	Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea		
	West Coast Transient		
Harbor porpoise	Southeast Alaska	40	161
Dall's porpoise	Alaska	24	98
Steller sea lion	Western U.S.	0	35
	Eastern U.S.	0	1,717
Harbor seal	Lynn Canal/ Stephens Passage	836	3,344

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, WP&YR must cease operations and reduce vessel speed to the minimum level required to maintain steerage and safe working conditions.
- (b) WP&YR is required to conduct briefings for construction supervisors and crews, the monitoring team, and WP&YR 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) WP&YR is required to establish and implement monitoring and shutdown zones (as shown in Table 2). NMFS may adjust the shutdown zones pending review and approval of an acoustic monitoring report (see Reporting condition 5(c)).
- (d) 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. Pre-activity monitoring must be conducted for 30 minutes to ensure that the shutdown zone is clear of marine mammals, and 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, animals must be allowed to remain in the shutdown zone (*i.e.*, must leave of their own volition) and their behavior must be monitored and documented.

- (e) If a marine mammal enters or is observed within an 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 or 15 minutes have passed without subsequent detections of the animal.
- (f) WP&YR 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 thirty-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.
- (g) 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 entering or within the monitoring zone (Table 2), pile driving and removal and drilling activities must shut down immediately using delay and shutdown 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(d) above, has elapsed.

Table 2. Monitoring and shutdown zones for each project activity.

Source	Monitoring Zone (m)	Shutdown Zone (m)
Drilling and Vibratory Installation/ Removal	13,000	Low- and high-frequency cetaceans: 150 Phocid pinnipeds: 80 Mid-frequency cetaceans and otariid pinnipeds: 10
Impact Installation	3,400	Low-frequency cetaceans: 2,000 All other species: 150

5. Monitoring Measures

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

- (a) Marine mammal monitoring must be conducted in accordance with the Marine Mammal Monitoring Plan, dated November 9, 2018.

- (b) Marine mammal monitoring during pile driving and removal 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. WP&YR must submit PSO CVs for approval by NMFS prior to the onset of pile driving and drilling.
- (c) Acoustic monitoring must be conducted in accordance with the Acoustic Monitoring Plan, dated November 9, 2018. WP&YR will collect acoustic data for at least one 42-inch permanent pile, using all three installation methods (impact pile driving, vibratory pile driving, and down-the-hole drilling) from at least two distances from the pile (one approximately 10 meters from the pile and at least one additional measurement in the far field). The following data, at minimum, must be collected during acoustic monitoring and reported:
- i. Hydrophone equipment and methods: recording device, sampling rate, distance from the pile where recordings were made; depth of recording device(s).
 - ii. Type of pile (42 in), and segment of pile (1, 2, or 3), being driven and method of driving/removal or drilling during recordings.
 - iii. Mean, maximum, and range sound levels (dB re: 1 μ Pa): cumulative sound exposure level (SEL_{CUM}), peak sound pressure level (SPL_{PK}), root mean square sound pressure level (SPL_{RMS}), and single-strike sound exposure level (SEL_{S-S}) as appropriate for the sound source.

6. Reporting

The holder of this IHA is required to:

- (a) Submit monthly reports on all marine mammal monitoring conducted under the IHA and a draft final report 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 must 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 Marine Mammal Monitoring Plan, dated November 9, 2018, 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.
 - 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.
- (b) Submit a draft acoustic monitoring report seven calendar days after completing field measurements and a final report within sixty calendar days.
- (c) 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 serious injury, or mortality, WP&YR must immediately cease the specified activities and report the incident to the NMFS Office of Protected Resources (301-427-8401) and Alaska Region Stranding Coordinator (907-586-7209). 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 must not resume until NMFS is able to review the circumstances of the prohibited take. NMFS will work with WP&YR to determine what measures are necessary to minimize the likelihood of further prohibited take and ensure MMPA compliance. WP&YR may not resume their activities until notified by NMFS.

- ii. In the event WP&YR 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), WP&YR must immediately report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the Alaska Region 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 WP&YR to determine whether additional mitigation measures or modifications to the activities are appropriate.
- iii. In the event that WP&YR 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 specified activities (e.g., previously wounded animal, carcass with moderate to advanced decomposition, or

scavenger damage), WP&YR must report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the Alaska Region Stranding Coordinator, NMFS, within 24 hours of the discovery.

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 second one-year IHA without additional notice when 1) another year of identical or nearly identical activities as described in the Specified Activities section is planned or 2) the activities would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and a second IHA would allow for completion of the activities beyond that allowed for under this IHA, provided all of the following conditions are met:
 - (a) A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to expiration of the current IHA.
 - (b) The request for renewal must include the following:
 - i. An explanation that the activities to be conducted beyond the initial dates either are identical to the previously analyzed activities or include changes so minor (e.g., reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, take estimates, or mitigation and monitoring requirements.
 - 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 remain the same and appropriate, and the original findings remain valid.

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

Date