

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Letters of Authorization To Take Marine Mammals**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of Letters of Authorization to take marine mammals incidental to oil and gas industry activities.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

implementing regulations [50 CFR 18.27(f)(3)], notice is hereby given that Letters of Authorization to take polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production activities have been issued to the following companies:

Company	Activity	Date issued
BP Exploration (Prudhoe Bay Unit)	Production	February 8, 2000.
BP Exploration (Kuparuk Unit)	Production	February 8, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (NW Eileen)	Exploration	February 14, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (Alpine)	Development	February 14, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (Nanuk #2 & #3)	Exploration	February 14, 2000.
BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. (Northstar)	Development	February 23, 2000.
Western Geophysical (Anadarko)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
Western Geophysical (ARCO)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (Meltwater North)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (Spark #1)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (Rendezvous A&B)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (Lookout A)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (Moose's Tooth A&C)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (Clover A&B)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
ARCO Alaska, Inc. (Cairn)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
Western Geophysical (ARCO)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
Western Geophysical (BP Exploration)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
Kuukpik/Fairweather Geophysical	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
BP Exploration (Point Thomson)	Exploration	February 23, 2000.
BP Exploration (West Gwydyr Bay)	Exploration	February 29, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John W. Bridges at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Letters of Authorization were issued in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Rules and Regulations "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities (65 FR 5275; February 3, 2000)."

Dated: March 3, 2000.

**Gary Edwards,**

*Deputy Regional Director.*

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**DATES:** The field trip will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, April 3, 2000. The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 4, 2000 and 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The field trip will begin at the Doubletree Inn, 2649 South Bayshore Drive, Miami, Florida. The meeting will be held at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Virginia Key, Miami, Florida in the auditorium.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703-358-2308 or by e-mail at: sharon\_gross@fws.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a field trip and meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

The field trip will consist of a visit to an area where the Asian Swamp Eel is present and causing impacts as well as other areas where invasive plant and animal species have caused significant impacts. Topics to be covered during the ANS Task Force meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday include the

following: briefings about regional nonindigenous species problems and initiatives; updates of activities from the Task Force's regional panels; discussion of the Coast Guard's ballast water management program; discussion of the Asian Swamp Eel and other invasive aquatic species of concern; overview of the activities of the Invasive Species Council; discussion of the guidance for the State ANS Management Plans; and overview of an outreach and education initiative.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 851, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: March 13, 2000.

**Hannibal Bolton,**

*Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Acting Assistant Director—Fisheries.*

[FR Doc. 00-6561 Filed 3-15-00; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a field trip and meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The focus of the field trip and meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**