



**Faye W. Sullivan**  
North Slope HES  
Coordinator  
MidContinent/Alaska SBU

**Chevron North America  
Exploration and Production**  
P.O. Box 196247  
Anchorage, AK 99519-6247  
Tel 907 263 7685  
Fax 907 263 7698  
Cell 907 223 4419  
Email fayesullivan@chevron.com

May 17, 2007

Mr. Shane Guan  
NOAA Fisheries  
Office of Protected Resources  
Permits, Conservation, and Education Division  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Request to Amend Incidental Harassment Authorization  
for Open Water Seismic Operations  
Cook Inlet, Alaska

Dear Mr. Guan:

Union Oil Company of California (UOCC) received an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which authorizes the incidental harassment of small numbers of marine mammals during seismic operations planned in the Cook Inlet, Alaska. The IHA was issued for seismic operations in northwestern Cook Inlet, paralleling the shoreline offshore of Granite Point, and extending from the shore into the inlet to an average of about 1 mile. The authorized time period for the seismic activities is from May 1, 2007, through June 15, 2007.

Due to ice conditions in the Cook Inlet during spring 2007, UOCC was unable to begin seismic operations planned for May. As a result, this is to request that NMFS change the effective date of the IHA to the time period September 4, 2007, through November 15, 2007. This shift in the timeframe of the activities should not result in an increase in the level of takes or a change to the impacted species; therefore, as we discussed via telephone, the change can be accomplished by a minor amendment to the existing IHA. UOCC has already obtained permits from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for seismic operations in Cook Inlet to begin September 4, 2007.

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We greatly appreciate your consideration of this IHA amendment for Cook Inlet seismic operations. If you have any questions or concerns, or require additional information, please contact me at (907) 263-7685.

Best regards,



Faye W. Sullivan

cc: Brad Smith, NMFS Anchorage Field Office  
Barbara Mahoney, NMFS Anchorage Field Office  
Jim Waugaman, Chevron  
Rick Trupp, CGGVeritas