

Arctic Stakeholder Open-water Workshop

April 6-8, 2009

Anchorage, Alaska

AGENDA

The sessions each morning will begin promptly at 8:30 am. Participants are encouraged to arrive early so that we can begin on time and keep on schedule. Coffee will be provided each morning.

Purpose and Objective of the 2009 Workshop:

The purpose and objective of the workshop is to meet the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) statutory and regulatory responsibilities concerning the incidental take of marine mammals and to identify, discuss, and evaluate the monitoring and mitigation program through review of past studies and information input from individual meeting participants¹. This will be accomplished by: (1) providing a forum for the oil and gas industry to present and discuss their 2008 activities, including monitoring results and effects of their activities on the marine environment; (2) affording Alaska Natives and other interested parties the opportunity to comment on the prior year's operations; (3) presenting industry plans for operations, monitoring, and mitigation for the 2009 season; (4) providing a forum for initial comments regarding the 2009 monitoring plans; and (5) initiating discussion with stakeholders regarding the development of a monitoring plan for the future (i.e., 2010 and beyond).

DAY 1 Monday, April 6

8:00 **Arrival\Coffee**

8:30 – 8:45 **Welcoming Remarks** (Jim Lecky, Director, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, and John Goll, Regional Director, Alaska, Minerals Management Service)

8:45 - 9:30 **Introductions and Housekeeping Items** (Lisa O'Brien and Ron Felde)
Brief Introduction of Attendees
Review of Ground Rules
Review of Agenda

9:30 – 9:45 **Review of Meeting Objectives** (Lisa O'Brien and Ron Felde)

¹ NMFS cannot accept any consensus recommendations from the meeting participants concerning any substantive or procedural issue. NMFS will consider recommendations or concerns from individual participants concerning the issues discussed during the workshop.

9:45 - 10:15 Monitoring and Mitigation—Purposes and Requirements (Jim Lecky)
Monitoring (50 CFR §§ 216.104(a)(13) and 216.108(c))

- (1) Estimate the level of take associated with the activity
- (2) Document the effects on marine mammals
- (3) Increase “real-time” knowledge of activity of the species, behavior, and abundance to ensure mitigation, if required, is implemented

Mitigation (50 CFR §§ 216.102(b) and 216.104(c))

- (1) Means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on species or stocks or its habitat
- (2) To support, as necessary, a finding of negligible impact on affected species and stocks and to ensure that there is no unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence uses

10:15 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 – 11:30 Subsistence Issues (Harry Brower and Archie Ahkiviana)

- (1) Discussion of 2008 bowhead harvest, changes in harvest practices within whaling villages, and plans for 2009 whaling season
- (2) Concerns of hunting community with IHA actions
- (3) Role of subsistence hunters in designing mitigation measures

11:30 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 5:30 Presentation of 2008 Monitoring Results: [NOTE: There is a decrease in the amount of time available for each presentation this year from previous years. Therefore the presentations will focus only on the major points/outcomes from the monitoring programs with a focus on 2008. Each presenter should leave at least 10 minutes for questions. There can be further discussion during the Facilitated Discussion on the morning of Day 2.]

Beaufort Sea Monitoring Results

1:00 – 2:00 BP Monitoring Results for Liberty Prospect (Bill Streever)

2:00 – 3:45 BP 2008 Monitoring Results for Northstar (Bill Streever)

3:45 - 4:00 BREAK

4:00 – 5:30 Shell Monitoring Results for Beaufort Sea Survey (Susan Childs and Michael Macrander)

DAY 2 Tuesday, April 7

8:00 Arrival\Coffee

8:30 – 11:00 Presentation of 2008 Monitoring Results (continued)

Beaufort Sea Monitoring Results (continued)

8:30 – 9:00 PGS Monitoring Results for Beaufort Sea Survey and Eni Activities (Ed Nelson)

9:00 – 9:15 Pioneer 2008 Results and Limited 2009 Activity (Julie Lina and Dale Hoffman)

Chukchi Sea Monitoring Results

9:15 – 10:15 Shell Monitoring Results for Chukchi Sea Survey (Susan Childs and Michael Macrander)

10:15 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 – 11:00 ConocoPhillips Results for Chukchi Site Clearance Activities (Bruce St. Pierre and Jay Brueggeman)

11:00 – 11:30 2008 Monitoring Results – Facilitated Discussion

- (1) Opportunity for questions and responses of the Presenters
- (2) What do we know/have we learned that needs to be implemented in the future?
- (3) What does not need to be carried forward?

11:30 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 1:45 2008 Monitoring Results – Facilitated Discussion

- (1) Opportunity for questions and responses of the Presenters
- (2) What do we know/have we learned that needs to be implemented in the future?
- (3) What does not need to be carried forward?

1:45 – 3:45 2009 Proposed Activities and Monitoring

1:45 – 2:15 Shell 2009 Shallow-hazard Operations and Monitoring Plan (Chukchi Sea) (Susan Childs and Michael Macrander)

2:15 – 2:45 Harrison Bay 2009 Open-water Seismic Operations and Monitoring (Beaufort Sea) (Robert Province)

2:45 – 3:00 BREAK

3:00 – 3:45 BP Monitoring for Northstar 2009 and Liberty 2009 Activities (Beaufort Sea) (Bill Streever)

3:45 - 4:30 Sound Source Verification Testing (Shane Guan)

- (1) Present requirements
- (2) Creation of a vessel source database
- (3) When should a specific sound source be re-measured (when there is a change in location, annually, etc.)?

4:30 - 5:15 Monitoring and Reporting of Dead and Injured Marine Mammals (Candace Nachman and Cheryl Rosa)

- (1) Presentation of reporting and operational requirements
- (2) Discussion of improved means of monitoring and reporting, necropsy abilities, and industry capabilities and responsibilities

DAY 3 Wednesday, April 8

8:00 Arrival\Coffee

8:30 - 9:30 2009 Monitoring – Facilitated Discussion

Opportunity for comment and response regarding the 2009 proposed activities, monitoring plans, and mitigation measures to reduce effects of activities on marine mammals and recommendations for development of long-term monitoring needs

9:30 – 10:00 Subsistence Issues (Harry Brower and Archie Ahkiviana)

Recommendations to NMFS to meet requirement of no unmitigable adverse impact to availability of marine mammals for subsistence uses, role of native observers, communication centers, other

10:00 – 10:15 BREAK

10:15 – 11:30 Results from other Meetings/Discussions to Inform Monitoring Requirements Discussion

10:15 – 10:45 Results of February Chukchi Sea Acoustics Workshop (Catherine Berchock)

10:45 – 11:30 BWASP and COMIDA Update – Results from 2008 (Robyn Angliss)

11:30 – 1:00 LUNCH

- 1:00 – 2:00 Shipboard Observers in Monitoring** (Jim Wilder)
- (1) Role and purpose of marine mammal observers (MMOs)
 - (2) Problems with MMOs and real-time reporting
 - (3) Command center discussion
 - (4) Training, certification and proficiency
 - (5) Monitoring at night or in low visibility conditions—effectiveness or any new technologies to improve detection and reporting
 - (6) What changes are needed for this program? (Facilitated Discussion)
- 2:00 – 3:00 Aerial Monitoring** (Robyn Angliss)
- (1) What is the role of aerial monitoring?
 - (2) What is needed to improve protocol for the future?
 - (3) Facilitated Discussion
- 3:00 - 3:15 BREAK**
- 3:15 – 4:30 Parking Lot Issues**
- 4:30 – 5:00 Closing Remarks and Adjourn**