

### **Incidental Harassment Authorization**

The United States Department of the Navy (Navy) was issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) on February 4, 2022 under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(5)(D)). The IHA authorized take incidental to 2024 Ice Exercise (ICEX) activities in the Arctic Ocean, and was valid from February 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024. The IHA contained two reporting requirements, which are provided below.

The ice camp supporting ICEX 24 was operational from February 22 to March 29, 2024. During this time the ice floe upon which the camp was built shifted westward from approximately 245 miles northeast of Deadhorse, Alaska to 224 miles northeast of Deadhorse, Alaska.

Within the camp, the Camp Safety Watch was tasked to monitor for marine mammals utilizing a visual camera, and a thermal imaging camera; each with pan, tilt, and zoom capability, as well as the naked eye. During the construction of the ice camp (prior to a dedicated Camp Safety Watch being in place) and during demobilization of the camp (after the Camp Safety Watch was disbanded), personnel still maintained a marine mammal lookout within the camp and during every movement between the camp and the runways. Additionally, a dedicated marine mammal watch was assigned to all Field Parties (i.e. any activity outside the immediate vicinity of the ice camp). The table below provides the cumulative hours of effort monitoring for marine mammals and total observations of marine mammals and seal lairs at the ice camp.

ICEX 24 Dedicated Monitoring Effort

	Activity	Days	Hours/ Day	Total Hours	Observations
<b>Monitoring effort</b>	Camp Buildup	3	12	36	0
	Camp Demobilization	5.5	12	66	0
	Camp Safety Watch	21	6*	126	0
	Field Parties	24	8	192	0
<b>Total Hours/Observations</b>				<b>420</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Camp Safety Watch station was manned 24 hours per day but had other safety watch duties and therefore only a portion of time was dedicated to polar bear watch.

For submarine activity, mitigation was not needed to be enacted as no marine mammal vocalizations were heard via passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) 15 minutes prior to the start of or during training or testing activities with active transmissions.

For underwater recording analysis, there were no unclassified recordings available for analysis.