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# ***Leasing Activities Information***



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Alaska OCS Region

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## **Lease Stipulations for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 186 Beaufort Sea September 24, 2003**

- Stipulation No. 1. Protection of Biological Resources
- Stipulation No. 2. Orientation Program
- Stipulation No. 3. Transportation of Hydrocarbons
- Stipulation No. 4. Industry Site-Specific Bowhead Whale-Monitoring Program
- Stipulation No. 5. Conflict Avoidance Mechanisms to Protect Subsistence Whaling and Other Subsistence-Harvesting Activities
- Stipulation No. 6. Pre-Booming Requirements for Fuel Transfers
- Stipulation No. 7. Lighting of Lease Structures to Minimize Effects to Spectacled and Steller's Eider

***Stipulation No. 1. Protection of Biological Resources.*** If biological populations or habitats that may require additional protection are identified in the lease area by the Regional Supervisor, Field Operations (RS/FO), the RS/FO may require the lessee to conduct biological surveys to determine the extent and composition of such biological populations or habitats. The RS/FO shall give written notification to the lessee of the RS/FO's decision to require such surveys.

Based on any surveys that the RS/FO may require of the lessee or on other information available to the RS/FO on special biological resources, the RS/FO may require the lessee to:

- (1) Relocate the site of operations;
- (2) Establish to the satisfaction of the RS/FO, on the basis of a site-specific survey, either that such operations will not have a significant adverse effect upon the resource identified or that a special biological resource does not exist;
- (3) Operate during those periods of time, as established by the RS/FO, that do not adversely affect the biological resources; and/or
- (4) Modify operations to ensure that significant biological populations or habitats deserving protection are not adversely affected.

If any area of biological significance should be discovered during the conduct of any operations on the lease, the lessee shall immediately report such findings to the RS/FO and make every

reasonable effort to preserve and protect the biological resource from damage until the RS/FO has given the lessee direction with respect to its protection.

The lessee shall submit all data obtained in the course of biological surveys to the RS/FO with the locational information for drilling or other activity. The lessee may take no action that might affect the biological populations or habitats surveyed until the RS/FO provides written directions to the lessee with regard to permissible actions.

**Stipulation No. 2. Orientation Program.** The lessee shall include in any exploration or development and production plans submitted under 30 CFR 250.203 and 250.204 a proposed orientation program for all personnel involved in exploration or development and production activities (including personnel of the lessee's agents, contractors, and subcontractors) for review and approval by the RS/FO. The program shall be designed in sufficient detail to inform individuals working on the project of specific types of environmental, social, and cultural concerns that relate to the sale and adjacent areas. The program shall address the importance of not disturbing archaeological and biological resources and habitats, including endangered species, fisheries, bird colonies, and marine mammals and provide guidance on how to avoid disturbance. This guidance will include the production and distribution of information cards on endangered and/or threatened species in the sale area. The program shall be designed to increase the sensitivity and understanding of personnel to community values, customs, and lifestyles in areas in which such personnel will be operating. The orientation program shall also include information concerning avoidance of conflicts with subsistence, commercial fishing activities, and pertinent mitigation.

The program shall be attended at least once a year by all personnel involved in onsite exploration or development and production activities (including personnel of the lessee's agents, contractors, and subcontractors) and all supervisory and managerial personnel involved in lease activities of the lessee and its agents, contractors, and subcontractors.

The lessee shall maintain a record of all personnel who attend the program onsite for so long as the site is active, not to exceed 5 years. This record shall include the name and date(s) of attendance of each attendee.

**Stipulation No. 3. Transportation of Hydrocarbons.** Pipelines will be required: (a) if pipeline rights-of-way can be determined and obtained; (b) if laying such pipelines is technologically feasible and environmentally preferable; and (c) if, in the opinion of the lessor, pipelines can be laid without net social loss, taking into account any incremental costs of pipelines over alternative methods of transportation and any incremental benefits in the form of increased environmental protection or reduced multiple-use conflicts. The lessor specifically reserves the right to require that any pipeline used for transporting production to shore be placed in certain designated management areas. In selecting the means of transportation, consideration will be given to recommendations of any advisory groups and Federal, state, and local governments and industry.

Following the development of sufficient pipeline capacity, no crude oil production will be transported by surface vessel from offshore production sites, except in the case of an emergency. Determinations as to emergency conditions and appropriate responses to these conditions will be made by the RS/FO.

**Stipulation No. 4. Industry Site-Specific Bowhead Whale-Monitoring Program.** Lessees proposing to conduct exploratory drilling operations, including seismic surveys, during the bowhead whale migration will be required to conduct a site-specific monitoring program approved by the RS/FO; unless, based on the size, timing, duration, and scope of the proposed operations, the RS/FO, in consultation with the North Slope Borough (NSB) and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC), determine that a monitoring program is not necessary. The RS/FO will provide the NSB, AEWC, and the State of Alaska a minimum of 30 but no longer than 60 calendar days to review and comment on a proposed monitoring program prior to approval. The monitoring program must be approved each year before exploratory drilling operations can be commenced.

The monitoring program will be designed to assess when bowhead whales are present in the vicinity of lease operations and the extent of behavioral effects on bowhead whales due to these operations. In designing the program, lessees must consider the potential scope and extent of effects that the type of operation could have on bowhead whales. Experiences relayed by subsistence hunters indicate that, depending on the type of operations, some whales demonstrate avoidance behavior at distances of up to 35 miles. The program must also provide for the following:

- (1) Recording and reporting information on sighting of other marine mammals and the extent of behavioral effects due to operations,
- (2) Inviting an AEWC or NSB representative to participate in the monitoring program as an observer,
- (3) Coordinating the monitoring logistics beforehand with the MMS Bowhead Whale Aerial Survey Project (BWASP),
- (4) Submitting daily monitoring results to the MMS BWASP,
- (5) Submitting a draft report on the results of the monitoring program to the RS/FO within 60 days following the completion of the operation. The RS/FO will distribute this draft report to the AEWC, the NSB, the State of Alaska, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Fisheries (NOAA).
- (6) Submitting a final report on the results of the monitoring program to the RS/FO. The final report will include a discussion of the results of the peer review of the draft report. The RS/FO will distribute this report to the AEWC, the NSB, the State of Alaska, and the NOAA-Fisheries.

Lessees will be required to fund an independent peer review of a proposed monitoring plan and the draft report on the results of the monitoring program. This peer review will consist of

independent reviewers who have knowledge and experience in statistics, monitoring marine mammal behavior, the type and extent of the proposed operations, and an awareness of traditional knowledge. The peer reviewers will be selected by the RS/FO from experts recommended by the NSB, the AEW, industry, NOAA - Fisheries, and MMS. The results of these peer reviews will be provided to the RS/FO for consideration in final approval of the monitoring program and the final report, with copies to the NSB, AEW, and the State of Alaska.

In the event the lessee is seeking a Letter of Authorization (LOA) or Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) for incidental take from the NOAA - Fisheries, the monitoring program and review process required under the LOA or IHA may satisfy the requirements of this stipulation. Lessees must advise the RS/FO when it is seeking an LOA or IHA in lieu of meeting the requirements of this stipulation and provide the RS/FO with copies of all pertinent submittals and resulting correspondence. The RS/FO will coordinate with the NOAA - Fisheries and advise the lessee if the LOA or IHA will meet these requirements.

This stipulation applies to the following blocks for the time periods listed and will remain in effect until termination or modification by the Department of the Interior, after consultation with the NOAA-Fisheries and the NSB.

**Spring Migration Area: April 1 through June 15**

**OPD: NR 05-01, Dease Inlet. Blocks included:**

6102-6111	6302-6321	6508-6523	6717-6723
6152-6167	6354-6371	6560-6573	
6202-6220	6404-6423	6610-6623	
6252-6270	6455-6473	6659-6673	

**OPD: NR 05-02, Harrison Bay North: Blocks included:**

6401-6404	6501-6506	6601-6609	6701-6716
6451-6454	6551-6556	6651-6659	

**Central Fall Migration Area: September 1 through October 31**

**OPD: NR 05-01, Dease Inlet. Blocks included:**

6102-6111	6354-6371	6610-6623	6856-6873
6152-6167	6404-6423	6659-6673	6908-6923
6202-6220	6455-6473	6706-6723	6960-6973
6252-6270	6508-6523	6756-6773	7011-7023
6302-6321	6560-6573	6806-6823	7062-7073
			7112-7123

**OPD: NR 05-02, Harrison Bay North.** Blocks included:

6401-6404	6601-6609	6801-6818	7001-7023
6451-6454	6651-6659	6851-6868	7051-7073
6501-6506	6701-6716	6901-6923	7101-7123
6551-6556	6751-6766	6951-6973	

**OPD: NR 05-03, Teshekpuk.** Blocks included:

6015-6024	6067-6072
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**OPD: NR 05-04, Harrison Bay.** Blocks included:

6001-6023	6157-6173	6309-6324	6461-6469
6052-6073	6208-6223	6360-6374	6513-6519
6106-6123	6258-6274	6410-6424	6565-6566

**OPD: NR 06-01, Beechey Point North.** Blocks included:

6901-6911	6951-6962	7001-7012	7051-7062
			7101-7113

**OPD: NR 06-03, Beechey Point.** Blocks included:

6002-6014	6202-6220	6401-6424	6618-6624
6052-6064	6251-6274	6456-6474	6671-6674
6102-6114	6301-6324	6509-6524	6722-6724
6152-6169	6351-6374	6569-6574	6773

**OPD: NR 06-04, Flaxman Island.** Blocks included:

6301-6303	6451-6459	6601-6609	6751-6759
6351-6359	6501-6509	6651-6659	6802-6809
6401-6409	6551-6559	6701-6709	6856-6859

**Eastern Fall Migration: August 1 through October 31**

**OPD: NR 06-04, Flaxman Island.** Blocks included:

6360-6364	6560-6574	6760-6774	6961-6974
6410-6424	6610-6624	6810-6824	7013-7022
6460-6474	6660-6674	6860-6874	7066-7070
6510-6524	6710-6724	6910-6924	7118-7119

**OPD: NR 07-03, Barter Island.** Blocks included:

6401-6405	6601-6605	6801-6803	7012-7013
6451-6455	6651-6655	6851-6853	7062-7067
6501-6505	6701-6705	6901-6903	7113-7117
6551-6555	6751-6753	6962-6963	

**OPD: NR 07-05, Demarcation Point.** Blocks included:

6016-6022	6118-6125	6221-6226	6324-6326
6067-6072	6169-6175	6273-6276	

**OPD: NR 07-06, Mackenzie Canyon.** Blocks included:

6201	6251	6301	6351
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**Stipulation No. 5. Conflict Avoidance Mechanisms to Protect Subsistence Whaling and Other Subsistence-Harvesting Activities.** Exploration and development and production operations shall be conducted in a manner that prevents unreasonable conflicts between the oil and gas industry and subsistence activities (including, but not limited to, bowhead whale subsistence hunting).

Prior to submitting an exploration plan or development and production plan (including associated oil-spill contingency plans) to MMS for activities proposed during the bowhead whale migration period, the lessee shall consult with the directly affected subsistence communities, Barrow, Kaktovik, or Nuiqsut, the North Slope Borough (NSB), and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) to discuss potential conflicts with the siting, timing, and methods of proposed operations and safeguards or mitigating measures which could be implemented by the operator to prevent unreasonable conflicts. Through this consultation, the lessee shall make every reasonable effort, including such mechanisms as a conflict avoidance agreement, to assure that exploration, development, and production activities are compatible with whaling and other subsistence hunting activities and will not result in unreasonable interference with subsistence harvests.

A discussion of resolutions reached during this consultation process and plans for continued consultation shall be included in the exploration plan or the development and production plan. In particular, the lessee shall show in the plan how its activities, in combination with other activities in the area, will be scheduled and located to prevent unreasonable conflicts with subsistence activities. Lessees shall also include a discussion of multiple or simultaneous operations, such as ice management and seismic activities, that can be expected to occur during operations in order to more accurately assess the potential for any cumulative affects. Communities, individuals, and other entities who were involved in the consultation shall be identified in the plan. The RS/FO shall send a copy of the exploration plan or development and production plan (including associated oil-spill contingency plans) to the directly affected communities and the AEWK at the time they are submitted to the MMS to allow concurrent review and comment as part of the plan approval process.

In the event no agreement is reached between the parties, the lessee, the AEWK, the NSB, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries (NOAA), or any of the subsistence communities that could be affected directly by the proposed activity may request that the RS/FO assemble a group consisting of representatives from the subsistence communities, AEWK, NSB, NOAA - Fisheries, and the lessee(s) to specifically address the conflict and attempt to resolve the

issues before making a final determination on the adequacy of the measures taken to prevent unreasonable conflicts with subsistence harvests. Upon request, the RS/FO will assemble this group if the RS/FO determines such a meeting is warranted and relevant before making a final determination on the adequacy of the measures taken to prevent unreasonable conflicts with subsistence harvests.

The lessee shall notify the RS/FO of all concerns expressed by subsistence hunters during operations and of steps taken to address such concerns. Lease-related use will be restricted when the RS/FO determines it is necessary to prevent unreasonable conflicts with local subsistence hunting activities.

In enforcing this stipulation, the RS/FO will work with other agencies and the public to assure that potential conflicts are identified and efforts are taken to avoid these conflicts.

Subsistence whaling activities occur generally during the following periods:

**August to October:** Kaktovik whalers use the area circumscribed from Anderson Point in Camden Bay to a point 30 kilometers north of Barter Island to Humphrey Point east of Barter Island. Nuiqsut whalers use an area extending from a line northward of the Nechelik Channel of the Colville River to Flaxman Island, seaward of the Barrier Islands.

**September to October:** Barrow hunters use the area circumscribed by a western boundary extending approximately 15 kilometers west of Barrow, a northern boundary 50 kilometers north of Barrow, then southeastward to a point about 50 kilometers off Cooper Island, with an eastern boundary on the east side of Dease Inlet. Occasional use may extend eastward as far as Cape Halkett.

**Stipulation No. 6 - Pre-Booming Requirements for Fuel Transfers.** Fuel transfers (excluding gasoline transfers) of 100 barrels or more occurring 3 weeks prior to or during the bowhead whale migration will require pre-booming of the fuel barge(s). The fuel barge must be surrounded by an oil-spill-containment boom during the entire transfer operation to help reduce any adverse effects from a fuel spill. This stipulation is applicable to the blocks and migration times listed in the stipulation on Industry Site-Specific Bowhead Whale-Monitoring. The lessee's oil-spill-contingency plans must include procedures for the pre-transfer booming of the fuel barge(s).

**Stipulation No. 7. Lighting of Lease Structures to Minimize Effects to Spectacled and Steller's Eider.** To minimize the likelihood that migrating spectacled or Steller's eiders will strike lease structures associated with offshore drilling, all structures so identified by MMS must be lighted and/or marked in a manner that does not attract them and minimizes the likelihood they would collide with the structures. The MMS and the Fish and Wildlife Service will cooperatively develop lighting requirements and identify where, when, and on what type of

structures the requirements should be applied. Specific lighting requirements will be developed by April 1, 2004, at which time MMS will issue these requirements.

The radiation of light outward from structures must be minimized by shading and/or light fixture placement to direct light inward and downward to living and work surfaces while minimizing light radiating upward and outward. These requirements will not apply between October 31 and May 1 of each year, when eiders are not likely to be present.

Lessees are required to report spectacled and/or Steller's eiders injured or killed through collisions with lease structures, to the Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office, Endangered Species Branch, Fairbanks, Alaska at (907) 456-0499 for instruction on the handling and disposal of the injured or dead bird.