



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Alaska OCS Region

3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823

JUN 13 2012

Shell Exploration and Production  
AK Venture Support Integrator  
Attn: Susan Childs, Manager  
3601 C Street, Suite 1000  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Ms. Childs:

This letter is to inform you that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has completed Endangered Species Act consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Accordingly, Condition #15 of BOEM's Conditional Approval, dated December 16, 2011, for Shell's 2012 Chukchi Sea Exploration Plan, is now satisfied.

Please note that under the terms and conditions (T&C) of the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) issued under the May 8, 2012 Biological Opinion (BO) by USFWS, BOEM may not authorize entry into Ledyard Bay Critical Habitat Unit for purposes of installing or retrieving passive acoustic monitoring devices, as proposed in Shell's Marine Mammal Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (4MP) for Exploration Drilling in the Chukchi Sea. T&C Condition 2b states, in part:

"To prevent impacts to molting spectacled eiders that are likely less mobile and more energetically stressed during this flightless period, BOEM and BSEE will impose mitigation measures on their lessees, permittees and agents of their lessees and permittees requiring that no marine deep penetration survey, high-resolution survey, or exploratory drilling vessels (and any vessels supporting, accompanying, or otherwise assisting them) operate in the LBCHU after July 1 of each year."

This non-discretionary provision of the ITS aligns with Chukchi Sea Lease Stipulation #7, which restricts surface vessels associated with exploration and delineation drilling operations from travel within the Ledyard Bay Critical Habitat Area between July 1 and November 15.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (907) 334-5273.

Sincerely,

David W. Johnston, Regional Supervisor  
Office of Leasing & Plans

cc: Mark Fesmire, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement  
Jeffrey Missal, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement  
David Moore, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement  
Geoff Haskett, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Craig Perham, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
James Balsiger, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Brad Smith, National Marine Fisheries Service