

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978**

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of Permit Applications Received.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of permit applications received to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act in the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of permit applications received.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application by October 26, 2022. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 or ACApermits@nsf.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Titmus, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address, 703–292–4479.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–541, 45 CFR 671), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas as requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

Application Details

Permit Application: 2023–014

1. Applicant

Kristin M. O'Brien, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775.

Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

ASP Entry, Import into the USA. This applicant would fish using benthic trawls and fish traps/pots in the Antarctic Peninsula region for capturing specimens to support studies of the physiology and biochemistry of Antarctic fishes with an emphasis on

Channichthyid fishes. Collection of specimens would be carried out aboard the ARSV Laurence M. Gould and live specimens would be transported to aquarium facilities at Palmer Station for research purposes. Benthic Otter trawling will be restricted to areas with smooth bottom surfaces. The applicant plans to collect up to a total of 950 fish specimens from about 13 species. Frozen tissue samples would be imported to the home institution.

Location

APSA 152, Western Bransfield Strait; ASPA 153 Eastern Dallmann Bay.

Dates of Permitted Activities

March 1, 2023–September 1, 2023.

Erika N. Davis,

Program Specialist, Office of Polar Programs.

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Application Details

Permit Application: 2023–009

1. Applicant

Harry R. Anderson, PHYWAVE, 250 Eagle Place NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Waste Management. The applicant seeks an Antarctic Conservation Act permit for waste management activities associated with the operation of a yacht, to conduct shore excursions, and the operation of a remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) in the Antarctic Peninsula region. The RPAS would consist of a quadcopter equipped with a camera to obtain footage of the vessel at anchor. The RPAS would only be operated by a FAA-licensed pilot. Several measures would be taken to prevent loss of the RPAS including floatation devices, flying in fair weather, and the use of return-to-home safety features. Flights would not occur in the vicinity of wildlife.

Location

Antarctic Peninsula region.

Dates of Permitted Activities

January 1, 2023–March 31, 2023.

Permit Application: 2023–011

2. Applicant

Bill Davis, Vice President, Expeditions Operations and Development, Silversea Cruises, Ltd., Miami, FL 33132.

Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Waste Management. The applicant seeks an Antarctic Conservation Act permit for waste management activities associated with the operation of a remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) and a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) in the Antarctic Peninsula Region. The applicant proposes to operate small, battery-operated RPAS consisting, in part, of a quadcopter equipped with cameras to collect commercial footage of the Antarctic. The quadcopter would not be flown over concentrations of birds or mammals, or over Antarctic Specially Protected Areas or Historic Sites and Monuments. The RPAS would only be operated by pilots with extensive experience, who are pre-