

requirements in this section under control number 2900-0101.)

[FR Doc. 00-7913 Filed 3-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

41 CFR Parts 301-51, 301-52, 301-54, 301-70, 301-71 and 301-76

[FTR Amendment 90]

RIN 3090-AG92

Federal Travel Regulation; Mandatory Use of the Travel Charge Card

AGENCY: Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA.

ACTION: Final rule; delay of applicability date.

SUMMARY: This document constitutes a deviation to the applicability date of the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) provisions pertaining to payment by the Government of expenses connected with official Government travel published in the **Federal Register** of January 19, 2000 (65 FR 3054). Due to the difficulties involved in implementing the requirements of Public Law 105-264, October 19, 1998, regarding the required use of the travel charge card, collection of amounts owed, and reimbursement of travel expenses, the Associate Administrator for the Office of Governmentwide Policy hereby grants a class deviation that delays the applicability date until May 1, 2000, for mandatory use of the travel charge card and payment of associated penalties and interest. This delay will allow agencies time to work out the details of implementation of the mandatory use of the travel charge card regulations.

DATES: *Effective Date:* The effective date of this final rule remains July 16, 1999.

Applicability Date: The applicability date of the final rule published at 65 FR 3054 on January 19, 2000, is delayed from February 29, 2000, until May 1, 2000, or upon the issuance of agency implementing regulations, whichever occurs first.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra Batton, Travel and Transportation Management Policy Division, at (202) 501-1538.

Dated: March 24, 2000.

G. Martin Wagner,

Associate Administrator for Governmentwide Policy.

[FR Doc. 00-7819 Filed 3-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 18

RIN 1018-AF54

Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: These regulations authorize the incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus during year-round oil and gas industry (Industry) exploration, development, and production operations in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska.

We made a finding that the total expected takings of polar bear and Pacific walrus during oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production activities will have a negligible impact on these species and will have no unmitigable adverse impacts on the availability of these species of subsistence use by Alaska Natives. We base this finding on results from 6 years of monitoring interactions between marine mammals and Industry and using oil trajectory models and polar bear density models to determine the likelihood of impacts to polar bears should an accidental oil release occur.

DATES: This rule is effective March 30, 2000, and remains effective through March 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials received in response to this action are available for public and inspection during normal working hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, at the Office of Marine Mammals Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Bridges, Office of Marine Mammals Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503, Telephone 907-786-3810 or 1-800-362-5148, or Internet John_Bridges@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (Act) gives the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (We) the authority to allow the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals, in response to

requests by U.S. citizens (You) [as defined in 50 CFR 18.27(c)] engaged in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) in a specified geographic region.

Under the provisions of the Act, and based on our finding and the best scientific evidence available that the total of such taking for the 3-year period will have a negligible impact on these species and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these species for taking for subsistence use by Alaska Natives, we will allow the incidental taking of polar bears and Pacific walrus. These regulations set forth: (1) permissible methods of taking; (2) means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and their habitat and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses; and (3) requirements for monitoring and reporting.

The term "take" as defined by the Act means to harass, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

Harassment as defined by the Act, as amended in 1994, " * * * means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which—

(i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild; or

(ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering."

As a result of 1986 amendments to the Act, we amended 50 CFR 18.27 (i.e., regulations governing small takes of marine mammals incidental to specified activities) with a final rule published on September 29, 1989. Section 18.27(c) included, among other things, a revised definition of "negligible impact" and a new definition for "unmitigable adverse impact" as follows. Negligible impact is an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. Unmitigable adverse impact means an impact resulting from the specified activity:

(1) that is likely to reduce the availability of the species to a level insufficient for a harvest to meet subsistence needs by:

(i) causing the marine mammals to abandon or avoid hunting areas,

(ii) directly displacing subsistence users, or