

Comprehensive Five-Year Report

Letter of Authorization for the

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Conducting Waterfront Construction at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia (7/12/2017 – 7/11/2022)

YEAR ONE (2017-18)

Project 1B – General Access Pier (August 2017)

YEAR TWO (2018-19)

Project 4B - Small Craft Berth Site VI (Nov 2018 – Jan 2019)

- Approval was received in March 2018 to remove 39 steel piles rather than removing the 30 that were described in the Letter of Authorization (LOA), and to install 28 steel piles rather than installing the 30 steel piles that were described in the LOA.

Project 5 - MSF Repair (Dec 2018)

- The LOA allowed for the vibratory removal of 18 timber piles and the vibratory installation of 18 composite piles during this project.
- Rather than perform pile driving, the Navy cut 56 timber piles near the mudline and jet 56 composite piles into place.
- The LOA required acoustic monitoring during this project to gather data on composite pile installation but there would be no noise to measure due to the jetting and the contract has been awarded without that stipulation included.

The requirement for marine mammal observers in accordance with the LOA was conveyed for these projects. Due to the lack of subsequent communication, however, training was neither scheduled or delivered, and marine mammal observations did not occur. This failure resulted in the implementation of a corrective communication plan, beginning in July 2019 and executed quarterly, to ensure NAVFAC SE Environmental personnel were aware of upcoming projects covered by the LOA so that permit parameters remained at the forefront of project planning and execution.

YEAR THREE (2019-20)

No projects covered by the LOA were accomplished.

YEAR FOUR (2020-21)

No projects covered by the LOA were accomplished.

YEAR FIVE (2021-22)

No projects covered by the LOA were accomplished.

Prepared by:
Jered Jackson
NAVFAC SE, EV22
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32205
jered.b.jackson.civ@us.navy.mil
904-542-6308

Annual Report 2019

Letter of Authorization for the

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Conducting Waterfront Construction at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia (7/12/2017 – 7/11/2022)

SUMMARY

Three waterfront construction projects covered under this letter of authorization have been completed since it was issued:

YEAR ONE

Project 1B – General Access Pier (August 2017)

YEAR TWO

Project 4B – Small Craft Berth Site VI (Nov 2018 – Jan 2019)

Project 5 – MSF Repair (Dec 2018)

Despite permit requirements, marine mammal observers were not deployed in compliance with the permit during Project 4B and Project 5 (The LOA did not require extra observers for Project 1B).

In March 2018, the NSB Kings Bay Facility Engineering & Acquisition Division (FEAD), Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast (NAVFAC SE), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV N45), and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) corresponded regarding changes to the design of Projects 4B and 5, which were approved, as follows:

Project 4B:

- Remove 39 steel piles rather than removing the 30 that were described in the LOA.
- Install 28 steel piles rather than installing the 30 steel piles that were described in the LOA.

Project 5:

- The LOA allowed for the vibratory removal of 18 timber piles and the vibratory installation of 18 composite piles during this project.
- Rather than perform pile driving, cut 56 timber piles near the mudline and jet 56 composite piles into place.
- The LOA required acoustic monitoring during this project to gather data on composite pile installation but there would be no noise to measure due to the jetting and the contract has been awarded without that stipulation included.

Also in March 2018, NAVFAC SE and the NSB Kings Bay Environmental Department reiterated to the NSB Kings Bay FEAD the requirement for marine mammal observers in accordance with the LOA and requested that training be scheduled prior to construction. However, due to the lack of subsequent communication, training was neither scheduled or delivered, and marine mammal observations did not occur.

DEFICIENCIES AND SOLUTIONS

Failure to comply with the LOA requirement was primarily the result of an internal breakdown in communication between NAVFAC SE and the NSB Kings Bay FEAD. Permit briefings during the project planning phases are clearly not sufficient to ensure permit compliance. Going forward:

- 1) NAVFAC SE staff shall schedule an on-site meeting with NSB Kings Bay FEAD personnel within 35 days of this report's submittal to review the specific requirements of the permit.
 - All relevant points of contact shall be consolidated and shared with team members to help mitigate vacancies and staff turn-over.
- 2) Schedule, in MS Outlook, recurring quarterly phone conferences between NAVFAC SE staff, NSB Kings Bay Environmental and FEAD personnel to ensure the permit parameters are at the forefront of project planning and execution.
- 3) Schedule, in MS Outlook, recurring quarterly phone conferences between NAVFAC SE staff and OPNAV N45 staff to ensure OPNAV N45 is updated on the status of projects covered by the LOA in order to relay any impending issues with NMFS.
- 4) NAVFAC SE staff shall begin preparation of annual LOA monitoring reports on January 1 of each year so that they may be submitted no later than February 28. The January 1 preparation date shall be scheduled in MS Outlook as a reminder.

Prepared by:
Jered Jackson
NAVFAC SE, EV22
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32205
jered.jackson@navy.mil
904-542-6308

Annual Report 2020

**Letter of Authorization
for the**

**Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Conducting Waterfront Construction
at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia (7/12/2017 – 7/11/2022)**

CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD

No projects covered under the letter of authorization (LOA) were accomplished during the current report period. Due to a delay in submitting the previous report, the current period extended only from June to December 2019. Since no work was accomplished, we have no information to report. This report serves as our notice for completing the annual reporting requirement for stated period.

Prepared by:
Jered Jackson
NAVFAC SE, EV22
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32205
jered.jackson@navy.mil
904-542-6308

Annual Report 2021

**Letter of Authorization
for the**

**Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Conducting Waterfront Construction
at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia (7/12/2017 - 7/11/2022)**

CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD

No projects covered under the letter of authorization (LOA) were accomplished during the current report period of 1 January to 31 December 2020 . Since no work was accomplished, the Navy has no information to include in this report. This report serves as our notice for completing the annual reporting requirement for the stated period.

Prepared by:
Jered Jackson
NAVFAC SE, EV22
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32205
jered.jackson@navy.mil
904-542-6308

Annual Report 2022

Letter of Authorization

for the

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Conducting Waterfront Construction at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia (7/12/2017 – 7/11/2022)

CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD

No projects covered under the letter of authorization (LOA) were accomplished during this year's report period of 1 January to 11 July 2022. Since no work was accomplished, the Navy has no information to include in this report. This report serves as our notice for completing the annual reporting requirement. This LOA is now expired.

Prepared by:

Jered Jackson

NAVFAC SE, EV22

NAS Jacksonville, FL 32205

jered.b.jackson.civ@us.navy.mil

904-542-6308