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January 2, 2024

Jolie Harrison, Division Chief
Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources
1315 East-West Highway, F/PR1 room 13805
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Application for Permit to Conduct Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Resources on the Outer Continental Shelf affecting Walker Ridge Area: Blocks 490-496, 533-542, 576-587, 620-632, 664-676, 708-720, 752-764, 796-808, 840-852, 883-896, 930-939, 974-982 Amery Terrace Area: Blocks 8-13

Dear Ms. Harrison:

This letter is to request for an incidental take authorization under section 101(a)(5) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, for the take of marine mammals incidental to conducting a geophysical survey by Chevron U.S.A. Inc. ("Chevron"). This application is for the completion of the Jack OBN 2023 which was issued a Letter of Authorization (LOA) by NMFS on June 14, 2023.

The Jack OBN 2023 survey has encountered unexpected levels of weather-related standby time on the source vessel that has rendered impossible to complete the shooting phase of the program in the time allowed by the originally issued LOA.

The requested duration of the new LOA of 45 days from the date of issuing is **exclusively for the completion of original scope of work without any other modifications to the Jack OBN 2023 survey LOA application filed with NMFS in June 2022.**

The Jack OBN 2023 is currently at 81% of completion for the shooting phase of the acquisition and the project team is forecasting the same high level of 30% of standby time for the source vessel for the remaining 19% of the source recording phase of the survey. The 45-day LOA duration includes technical/equipment downtime in addition to the weather standby time with the understanding that source deployment for the survey will cease at the requested 45 days regardless of program completion.

Total Project Potential Exposures and Total LOA Authorized Takes are currently as follow:

POTENTIAL EXPOSURES SUMMARY TABLE

Species Common Name	Total LOA Authorized Takes	Total Project Potential Exposures to Date	Daily Vessel Potential Exposures
Sperm whale	371	2	0
Pygmy/Dwarf sperm whale	206	0	0
Beaked whales	3,338	0	0
Rough-toothed dolphin	590	0	0
Bottlenose dolphin	21	0	0
Clymene dolphin	1,533	0	0
Pantropical spotted dolphin	15,216	12	0
Spinner dolphin	357	0	0
Striped dolphin	796	0	0
Fraser's dolphin	257	0	0
Risso's dolphin	252	0	0
Melon-headed whale	1,014	70	0
Pygmy killer whale	488	0	0
False killer whale	553	0	0
Killer whale	7	0	0
Short-finned pilot whale	80	0	0
Totals		84	0

We also are attaching the four interim reports filed with Protected Species BSEE as part of the program LOA requirements for the Jack OBN 2023 survey.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to answer any questions you may have about this request. Please feel free to contact Adrian Peinado at (713) 304-3643 or apeinado@chevron.com with additional questions.

Yours very truly,



Adrian Peinado
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