

midazolam and butorphanol was allowed for use in the first cohort at 3, 5, and 7–8 weeks of age time points. A combination of midazolam and ketamine could have been used on 7–8-week-old pups, if deemed necessary. Metabolic and morphometric measurements were to be conducted on a second, separate cohort of five pups at each of the four time points. Sedation of seal pups in the second cohort, with a combination of midazolam and butorphanol, was only allowed for study animals at 3 weeks of age for the purposes of attaching an accelerometer tag. The permit holder was also allowed to conduct behavioral observations, imaging, and may disturb up to 350 Weddell seals. An additional seven Weddell seal pups, 15 Weddell seal adult females, and 20 crabeater seals were allowed to be disturbed during procedures on study animals. Up to two pup mortalities were requested per year, not to exceed three over the course of two field seasons. The permit holder was also allowed to collect tissues from Weddell seals (any age or gender) found dead from natural causes.

Now the applicant proposes a modification to the permit to allow the following: Sedation of all seal pups at all time points using midazolam with or without butorphanol (and continue to have the option of using midazolam in combination with ketamine at 7–8 weeks of age); collection of blood samples from seal pups in the second cohort, at all four time points, while the pups are under sedation; use of a cannulated biopsy needle for muscle tissue sampling of seal pups in the first cohort (rather than a dermal biopsy punch), at all four time points; attachment of a flipper-mounted VHF transmitter tag to seal pups in both cohorts at 3 weeks of age, on the flipper opposite the one with the time/depth tag attached, with removal at the final time point; attachment of accelerometer tags to the dorsal pelage of 1-week-old pups in both cohorts with removal of the tags at 3 weeks of age; administration of antibiotics to treat local or systemic infections in seal pups involved in the study; and increased takes of seal pups and adult females such that a total of 12 pups would be handled for study purposes compared with 10 in the original permit (six pups in each cohort compared with five in the original permit) and a total of 12 adult females, the mothers of the pups, would be disturbed during the handling of the pups (10 in the original permit). The permit holder has also requested a modification of NMFS Permit No. 21006.

Location: Erebus Bay, McMurdo Sound; ASPA 121, Cape Royds.

Dates of Permitted Activities: October 1, 2018–September 30, 2020.

3. Description of Permit Modification Requested: The Foundation issued a permit (ACA 2017–005) to David Ainley on July 27, 2016. The issued permit allows the permit holder and agents to enter three Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs); observe Adelie penguins; mark and measure penguin nests; attach tags, flipper bands, and special instruments to penguins; take small feather samples; and weigh and measure penguin chicks and adults. The permitted activities also include maintaining a webcam just inside the boundary of the Cape Royds ASPA.

Now the permit holder proposes a modification to the permit to attach a miniature video camera to adult Adelie penguins (n=40) to document activities during diving. The permit holder also proposes to engage the services of experienced pilots to operate remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) to capture video imagery of penguin colonies for the purposes of census and quantifying habitat characteristics. The RPAS operations would occur within the boundaries of ASPA 121, Cape Royds, and ASPA 124, Cape Crozier.

Location: ASPA 121, Cape Royds; ASPA 124, Cape Crozier; ASPA 105, Beaufort Island; Cape Bird (outside ASPA boundary).

Dates of Permitted Activities: October 1, 2018–February 5, 2020.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2018–19822 Filed 9–11–18; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the following meeting:

Name and Committee Code: Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (9487).

Date and Time: October 24, 2018; 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (EDT); October 25, 2018; 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (EDT).

Place: National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Room E 2020, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Dr. Leah Nichols, Staff Associate, Office of Integrative

Activities/Office of Director/National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314; (Email: lenichol@nsf.gov). Telephone: (703) 292–2983).

Minutes: May be obtained from <https://www.nsf.gov/ere/ereweb/minutes.jsp>.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice, recommendations, and oversight concerning support for environmental research and education.

Agenda: Approval of minutes from past meeting. Updates on agency support for environmental research and activities. Discussion with NSF Director and Assistant Directors. Plan for future advisory committee activities. Updated agenda will be available at <https://www.nsf.gov/ere/ereweb/minutes.jsp>.

Dated: September 6, 2018.

Crystal Robinson,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–19781 Filed 9–11–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Proposal Review Panel for Computing and Communication Foundations; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the following meeting:

Name and Committee Code: Proposal review panel for Computing and Communication Foundations (#1192)—Expeditions in Computing Division—Year 2 Site Visit at Cornell University.

Date and Time: September 12, 2018; 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.; September 13, 2018; 8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; September 14, 2018; 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Place: BU George Sherman Union, Metcalf Hall, 775 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215.

Type of Meeting: Part-Open.

Contact Person: Sylvia Spengler, Expeditions in Computing Program, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; Telephone 703/292–8930.

Purpose of Meeting: Site visit to assess the progress of the EIC Award: CCF–1522054, “Collaborative Research: CompSustNet: Expanding the Horizons of Computational Sustainability,” and to provide advice and recommendations concerning further NSF support for the project.

Agenda

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.: Closed

Evening briefing to discuss the Expeditions award and forthcoming site visit.

Thursday, September 13, 2018

8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: Open Presentations by Awardee Institution, faculty staff and students, to Site Team and NSF Staff. Discussions, question and answer sessions.
1:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m.: Closed NSF Staff and Panelists deliberation.
2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.: Open Continued presentations by Awardee Institution. Response and feedback to presentations by Site Team and NSF Staff. Discussions, question and answer sessions. Draft report on education and research activities. Complete written site visit report with preliminary recommendations.
6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.: Closed NSF Staff and Panelists working dinner.

Friday, September 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.: Open Expeditions PIs responses to issues raised by panelists.
10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.: Closed Panelists prepare site visit report.
2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.: Open Presentation of site visit report to Expeditions leadership team.

Reason For Closing: Topics to be discussed and evaluated during closed portions of the site review will include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; and information on personnel. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: September 6, 2018.

Crystal Robinson,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–19780 Filed 9–11–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

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 12, 2018. 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nature McGinn, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address, 703–292–8030, or ACApermits@nsf.gov.

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 requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

Application Details

Permit Application: 2019–005

1. *Applicant:* Bill Davis, VP Operations, Quark Expeditions, 3131 Elliot Avenue, Suite 250, Seattle, WA 98121.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested: Waste Management. The applicant is seeking a waste management permit associated with the operation of the i/b Kapitan Khlebnikov in the Antarctic Peninsula region. The vessel will complete multiple cruises and multiple landings per cruise. Maximum passengers taken ashore at any one time will be limited to 100 persons. Quark would offer activities including shore excursions by Zodiac or helicopter, sightseeing by helicopter, visits to the Snow Hill emperor penguin colony, polar plunges, and vessel-supported short overnight stays (camping). The applicant also proposes to operate a small, battery-operated remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) consisting, in part, of a quadcopter equipped with a camera to collect footage for commercial and educational purposes. Mitigation measures would be in place to reduce the risk of non-native species introductions and the risk of spills or releases to the environment. Waste generated during small boat and shore-based activities would be returned to the vessels for proper disposal.

For vessel-supported short overnight stays (camping): Camping would be away from vegetated sites and at least 150m from wildlife concentrations or lakes, protected areas, historical sites, and scientific stations. Tents would be pitched on snow, ice, or bare smooth rock, at least 15m from the high-water line. No food, other than emergency rations, would be brought onshore and all wastes, including human waste, would be collected and returned to the ship for proper disposal. Campers would be limited to 30 passengers plus staff, except at the following sites where campers are limited to 60 passengers plus staff: Damoy Point/Dorian Bay, Danco Island, Pleneau Island, Leith Cove, and Rongé Island. The ratio of staff to passengers would be 1:10. Camping would include overnight stays of any duration, but in accordance with the visitor site guidelines for each site.

For remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) operation: The quadcopter would not be flown over wildlife, or over Antarctic Specially Protected Areas or Historic Sites and Monuments. The RPAS would only be operated by pilots with adequate experience. Several measures would be taken to prevent against loss of the quadcopter including painting the them a highly visible color; only flying when the wind is calm; flying for only 15 minutes at a time to maintain adequate battery charge; having a flotation device for operations over water, and an “auto go home” feature in case of loss of control link or low battery; having an observer on the lookout for wildlife, people, and other hazards; and ensuring that the separation between the operator and quadcopter does not exceed a maximum distance of 300 meters.

Location: Snow Hill Island; Antarctic Peninsula region. For camping: Damoy Point/Dorian Bay, Danco Island, Rongé Island, Errera Channel, Paradise Bay, Andvord Bay, Pleneau Island, Argentine Islands (Winter Island by Wordie House), Hovgaard Island, Orne Harbour, Leith Cove, Prospect Point, Portal Point, Skontorp Cove, Horseshoe Island, Stony Point, Lefevre-Utile, the Naze.

Dates of Permitted Activities: October 1, 2018–March 31, 2019.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2018–19824 Filed 9–11–18; 8:45 am]

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