

information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Foundation, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Foundation's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* Office of Civil Rights—Civil Rights Case Management System.

*OMB Control No.:* 3145-New.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* Not applicable.

*Abstract:* The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) processes discrimination complaints under various federal civil rights laws and regulations. Organizations that receive funding awards from NSF are prohibited from discriminating against individuals who participate in any NSF-funded programs, services, and activities. To ensure awardee organizations follow civil rights laws, OCR's Awardee Compliance Branch (ACB) receives and considers complaints for investigation of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation in NSF-funded programs, services, and activities.

OCR ACB is establishing an electronic case management system to receive, evaluate, process, investigate, and resolve allegations of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. Complainants submit their complaint information into the case management system. Information collected and maintained by the system includes: name and contact information for the complainant; impacted party (*i.e.*, complainant or other individual), witnesses, respondent, awardee organization; complaint information (which includes basis of discrimination or harassment, complaint description, remedies, and whether the complaint is filed in any other forum); any additional documentation; and a consent form for investigation and sharing of information with the relevant organization(s). If the complaint is accepted for investigation, additional information may be collected that is relevant to the case. This information is collected to help OCR staff determine if there is jurisdiction to accept complaints for investigation by OCR or if the complaint should be referred to NSF's Office of the Inspector

General (OIG), to the institution, or another federal agency. Information is only used and shared on a need-to-know basis.

*Respondents:* Those who experienced or witnessed harassment or discrimination within an NSF program or activity.

*Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* 100.

*Burden on the Public:* Estimated 30 minutes to fill out the information to submit a complaint. The time varies by complaint. The estimated burden time is 50 hours a year.

Dated: September 9, 2025.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 2025-17544 Filed 9-10-25; 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 notice of permit applications received to conduct activities consistent with the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 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 14, 2025. 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](mailto: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, 16 U.S.C. 2401 *et seq.*), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-227), has developed regulations (45 CFR parts 670 to 674) for the establishment

of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica related to the designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas as requiring special protection, among other purposes.

#### Application Details

##### 1. Permit Application: 2026-004

*Applicant:* Sarah Conner, BBC Studios Americas Inc., 1120 Avenue of the Americas, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10036

*Activity for Which Permit Is Requested:* Harmful Interference (45 CFR 670). The applicant requests a permit in association with documentary film making activities. Activities would focus on the filming of Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) through filming from underwater, using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), and land-based platforms. The applicant requests up to 30 disturbances per day, not to exceed 280 disturbances for the project. During this project, the applicant requests incidental interaction with no more than 1 Crabeater seal (*Lobodon carcinophagus*) per week, and 1 Leopard seal (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) per week. Filming would occur at maintained U.S. Antarctic Program dive sites in McMurdo Sound and Erebus Bay. Animal approaches would be gradual, and no animal will be approached closer than 5m. Newborn neonate pups will not be approached. The applicant would operate, battery-operated remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) consisting, in part, of a quadcopter equipped with cameras. The RPAS would only be operated by a pilot with extensive experience. Takeoff and landing would occur at least 100m away from animals, and flown above animals at a minimum altitude of 23m, dropping to 10m only if no signs of disturbance have been detected. The applicant has received a NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service permit for these activities.

*Location:* McMurdo Sound and Erebus Bay.

*Dates of Permitted Activities:* October 8, 2025–November 15, 2025

*Permit Application:* 2026-005

2. *Applicant:* Jason Flesher, Scenic Luxury Tours and Cruises, 6422 W Briles Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85083

*Activity for Which Permit Is Requested:* Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area (45 CFR 670). The applicant seeks a permit authorizing entry into Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPA) in association with visits to historic huts in the Ross Sea and East Antarctica regions. Up to 580 persons would enter each ASPA accompanied

by guides trained in the history and preservation of the historic huts. All visits would be in accordance with the management plans for each ASPA.

*Locations:* ASPA 155—Cape Evans, Ross Island; ASPA 157—Backdoor Bay, Cape Royds, Ross Island; ASPA 158—Hut Point, Ross Island; ASPA 162—Mawson's Huts, Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay, George V Land, East Antarctica.

*Dates of Permitted Activities:* December 14, 2025–February 22, 2026.

**Jean C Allen,**

*Office Director, Office of Polar Programs.*

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geographic areas as requiring special protection, among other purposes.

### Application Details

*Permit Application: 2026–001*

1. *Applicant:* Lynne Talley, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD, La Jolla, CA 92093–0230.

*Activity for Which Permit Is Requested:* Waste Management (45 CFR 671). The applicant is seeking a waste management permit for waste management activities associated with the deployment of floating oceanographic profiling instruments (Argo floats) in Southern Ocean waters. The Argo floats would autonomously collect temperature, salinity, oxygen, pH, nitrate, fluorescence, backscatter, and irradiance from 0 to 2,000 m, every 10 days. The floats would freely drift and would likely leave and enter the region over the course of their operational lifetimes. The applicant proposes to release a maximum of 150 Argo floats south of 60° S during the permit period. Float dimensions are 75 inches tall by 9 inches diameter, weighing approximately 65 lbs. Each float includes 19DD lithium cells, with approximately 0.198 gm of lithium per float. The floats would drift at 1,000 m depth and come to the surface every 10 days. Their lifetime is approximately 5 years, after which the batteries would be depleted and the floats would no longer surface, but would remain in the ocean and sink to the ocean floor. The Argo floats deployed in the Southern Ocean would be part of a global array. The Argo array provides operational and research data that inform nowcast and forecast services, contributing to saving lives, avoiding property damage, and informing the public and government responses to environmental variability and change.

*Location:* Southern Ocean.  
*Dates of Permitted Activities:* November 1, 2025–June 30, 2030.

*Permit Application: 2026–002*

2. *Applicant:* Randall Reeves, 4343 Sequoyah Rd., Oakland, CA 94605.

*Activity for Which Permit Is Requested:* Waste Management (45 CFR 671). The applicant proposes to operate a sailing yacht, conduct shore excursions, and operate a remotely piloted aircraft system in the Antarctic Peninsula region. The yacht would carry up to 250 gallons of diesel fuel in a combination of internal and external storage tanks, up to 10 gallons of gasoline. A spill kit and absorbent pads would be available during all fueling and fuel transfers. Solid waste will be contained and stored on the vessel, and

disposed of outside of the Antarctic Treaty area. The applicant would operate small, battery-operated remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) consisting, in part, of a quadcopter equipped with cameras to aid in navigation and to collect footage of the Antarctic. 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 a pilot with extensive experience and flights would not occur if the aircraft cannot be flown in GPS mode. Several measures would be taken to prevent against loss of the quadcopters including terminating flights with at least 40% battery life remaining; having an observer on the lookout for wildlife, people, and other hazards; maintaining flights below 400 ft above ground level, and ensuring that the separation between the operator and quadcopter does not exceed visual line of sight. The applicant is seeking a Waste Permit to cover any accidental releases that may result from operating the vessel, conducting shore excursions, or operating the RPAS.

*Location:* Antarctic Peninsula region.  
*Dates of Permitted Activities:* December 1, 2025–January 2, 2030.

*Permit Application: 2026–003*

3. *Applicant:* John Kennedy, 665 Spruce St., Box 322, Del Norte, CO 81132.

*Activity for Which Permit Is Requested:* Waste Management (45 CFR 671). The applicant proposes to operate a sailing yacht, conduct shore excursions, and operate a remotely piloted aircraft system in the Antarctic Peninsula region. The yacht would carry up to 1,600 L of diesel fuel in a combination of internal and external storage tanks, up to 38 L of gasoline. A spill kit and absorbent pads would be available during all fueling and fuel transfers. Solid waste will be contained and stored on the vessel, and disposed of outside of the Antarctic Treaty area. The applicant would operate small, battery-operated remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) consisting, in part, of a quadcopter equipped with cameras to aid in navigation and to collect footage of the Antarctic. 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 a pilot with extensive experience and flights would not occur if the aircraft cannot be flown in GPS mode. Several measures would be taken to prevent against loss of the quadcopters including restricting flights occurring in winds over 20 knots; terminating flights with at least 40%