



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 **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. 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: Andrew Titmus, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address, 703-292-4479, or ACApemits@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 a requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

Application Details:

1. Applicant Permit Application: 2024-013
Daniel Villa, Sea Shepherd Global, 1217 S 9th St, Tacoma, WA 98405.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested

Waste Management. The applicant has provided a revised application to seek an Antarctic Conservation Permit for waste management activities associated with use of remotely piloted aircrafts (RPAs)

in Antarctica. Aircrafts will be used for documenting krill fishery activities and capturing video footage of wildlife from an oblique angle at least 75 m away in all directions. RPAs will not be flown over any concentrations of wildlife, Antarctic Specially Protected or Managed Areas or Historic Sites and Monuments without appropriate authorization. Aircraft are only to be flown by experienced, pre-approved pilots in fair weather conditions and in the presence of an observer, who will always maintain visual line of sight with the aircraft during operation. Mitigating measures are in place to prevent loss of the aircraft such as conducting site assessments in advance of deployment and having alternative landing sites.

Location

Antarctic Peninsula Region.

Dates of Permitted Activities

January 5, 2023– February 15, 2024.

Kimiko S. Bowens-Knox,

Program Analyst,

Office of Polar Programs.

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