



Wixon, Donna <dwixon@blm.gov>

questions in regard to seals

1 message

Wixon, Donna <dwixon@blm.gov>

Thu, Aug 16, 2018 at 9:00 AM

To: Suzan Simonds <ssimonds@contractor.saexploration.com>

Good Morning Sue,

Our BLM Alaska wildlife program lead met with NMFS (Greg Balogh) in regard to the Coastal Plain seismic proposal. As SAE plans to conduct seismic activities on and travel across the lagoons (even though staying within 10 ft on grounded ice) there is concern in regard to Ringed Seals. On February 12, 2018, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld NOAA Fisheries' decision to list Arctic ringed seals as threatened, therefore we have to consult with NMFS as part of our review process. To aid in the consultation process we have some questions for you.

Do you have any information, such as Sound Source Verification Reports from previous operations that you could send us that show the sound decibel levels under ice from the vibes?

Would SAE be willing to conduct the work over the lagoons first to avoid conducting the work after March?

Thank-you,
Donna

Donna L Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist
BLM Arctic District Office
222 University Ave
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
907-474-2301 Office
907-474-2386 Fax
dwixon@blm.gov