

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION****Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541)**

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of Permit Applications Received under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-541.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish 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 at Title 45 Part 670 of 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 these permit applications by December 6, 1996. Permit applications may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Room 755, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nadene G. Kennedy at the above address or (703) 306-1033.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541), has developed regulations that implement the "Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora" for all United States citizens. The Agreed Measures, developed by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, recommended 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 Specially Protected Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The applications received are as follows:

**1. Applicant**

Rennie S. Holt, U.S. AMLR Program, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla,

California 92038—Permit Application: 97-016

**Activity for Which Permit Is Requested**

Taking; Enter Site of Special Scientific Interest; and, Import into the U.S. The applicant proposes to enter Byers Peninsula (SSSI #6) and Cape Shirreff (SSSI #32) to study pinnipeds and seabirds. The AMLR Program proposes to establish a semi-permanent camp at Cape Shirreff to conduct these studies. Entry to the site will be by AMLR research personnel, contract support and ship personnel to assist in the set-up of the camp facilities in the first season (1996-97) and resupply of the camp. All activities within the site will comply with the site's management plan.

The seabird research to be conducted consists of ship-supported and land-based studies. The AMLR Program will conduct intermittent censuses of all seabird species at Cape Shirreff. Using established protocols adopted by the CCAMLR, a subset of Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins will be captured, temporarily marked and/or banded, instrumented (subset of adults only), handled (subset of adults only to have stomachs flushed), and then released. During capture, the birds will be weighed and measured. These parameters will be used to examine population dynamics of the various species.

During the census surveys, pinniped and seabird specimens are often found dead and washed ashore. The applicant proposes to salvage up to 10 carcasses per year per seabird and pinniped species for importation to the U.S. for research and educational purposes.

**Location**

SSSI #6—Byers Peninsula, Livingston Island, South Shetland Island; and SSSI #32—Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands.

**Dates:** December 30, 1996 to April 1, 2001.

**2. Applicant**

Gary D. Miller and Robert D. Miller, Biology Department, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131—Permit Application: 97-017

**Activity for Which Permit Is Requested**

Taking and Import into the U.S. The applicant will spend the season as a lecturer onboard a cruise ship visiting many sites repeatedly in the Antarctic

Peninsula during the 1996-97 season. He plans to collect tissue samples from carcasses of dead penguins, mostly chicks that have started or were killed by skuas. He will collect 10 to 15 samples from as many sites as possible. Each tissue sample will be homogenized and put into buffer solution to stabilize the DNA. The samples will be returned to the laboratory at the University of New Mexico for processing. The applicant will use the samples to analyze the phylogenetic relationships and the genetic variation of 2 major genera of penguins, the *Spheniscus* and *Pygoscelis* penguins.

**Location**

Antarctic Peninsula.

**Dates:** November 15, 1996-March 15, 1997.

**3. Applicant**

Steven D. Emslie, Department of Sciences, Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado—Permit Application: 97-018

**Activity for Which Permit Is Requested**

Taking; Enter Specially Protected Area; and Import into the U.S. The applicant proposes to conduct surveys and test excavations of abandoned penguin rookeries on Humble, Christine, Cormorant and Litchfield (SPA #17). The ice-free areas on these islands will be surveyed to locate evidence of former penguin breeding sites. The sites will be mapped and organic remains (penguin and other seabird bones and feathers) will be collected from the surface and subsurface of each rookery. Test pits will be placed in the abandoned rookeries and will be no larger than 1×1 m each. All pits will be refilled on the conclusion of the excavation. Collected sediments will be taken to Palmer Station for washing and sorting in the laboratory. All organic remains will be sorted from sediment and brought back to Western State College for identification and radiocarbon analyses.

**Location**

Islands in the Palmer LTER region, including Litchfield Island (Specially Protected Area #17).

**Dates:** February 28, 1997 to June 30, 1997.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs.

[FR Doc. 96-28757 Filed 11-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M