

vessels or vehicles to monitor the impact of the activity on polar bear and walrus.

(f) The holder of the Letter of Authorization must submit a report to the Service's Alaska Regional Director within 90 days after completion of activities. For development and production activities, the annual monitoring report must be submitted no later than 15 days after completion of the previous year's activities. The report must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) Dates and time of activity;
- (2) Dates and locations of polar bear or walrus activity related to monitoring the effects of the activity; and
- (3) Results of the monitoring activities including an estimate of the actual level of take.

**§ 18.128 Letters of Authorization.**

(a) Each person or entity conducting an oil and gas exploration, development, or production activity in the geographical area described in § 18.121, that may take a polar bear or walrus in execution of those activities, should apply for a Letter of Authorization for each exploration activity or a Letter of Authorization for each development and production area. The application for authorization must be submitted to the Service's Alaska Regional Director at least 90 days prior to the start of the proposed activity.

NOTE: The requirement that an application for a Letter of Authorization be filed at least 90 days before an activity is scheduled to begin becomes effective March 6, 1994. The final regulations in this subpart become effective December 16, 1993.

(b) When an application for a Letter of Authorization is submitted, it must include the following information:

- (1) A description of the activity, the dates and duration, the specific location and the estimated area affected by that activity;
- (2) A plan to monitor the behavior and effects of the activity on polar bear and walrus; and
- (3) A polar bear awareness and interaction plan.
- (4) Where relevant, a cooperation plan that describes the measures to be taken to mitigate potential conflicts between the proposed activity and subsistence hunting.

(c) In accordance with § 18.27(f), decisions made concerning withdrawals of Letters of Authorization, either on an individual or class basis, with regard to factors other than the term of Letters of Authorization, will be made only after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(d) The requirement for notice and public comment in § 18.128(c) will not apply should the Service determine that an emergency exists that poses a significant risk to the well-being of the species or stock of polar bear or walrus.

**§ 18.129 Information collection requirements.**

(a) The collections of information contained in this subpart have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned clearance number 1018-0070. It is necessary to collect the information in order to describe the activity and estimate the cumulative impacts of potential takings by all persons conducting the activity. The information is used to evaluate the application and determine whether to issue specific regulations and, subsequently, Letters of Authorization.

(b) The public burden associated with the 5-year period potentially covered by this is estimated at 5,802 hours including 1,002 hours to complete the three applications for specific regulations (334 hours each), 720 hours to complete 90 applications for Letters of Authorization (8 hours each), 2,880 hours to comply with recordkeeping requirements associated with 90 Letters of Authorization, and 1,200 hours to complete 150 required annual reports (8 hours each). Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this requirement to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Mail Stop 224 ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1018-0070), Washington, DC 20503.