

Marine Mammal/SARA Licence Application Instructions

The Species at Risk Act (SARA) was proclaimed in June 2003, by the Government of Canada for the protection of species at risk. A licence is required under the authority of the Fisheries (General) Regulations, Marine Mammal Regulations and the Species at Risk Act. This application is to be completed for all research/projects affecting a marine mammal species which is listed as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened under Canada's Species at Risk Act. Information about the Act, status and location of SARA-listed species can be obtained at the following website: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm. Use this application if your research covers a variety of species that are both listed and non-listed under SARA. For all other marine mammal species including those listed as Special Concern under SARA, a Marine Mammal Licence application is to be used. Contact the Program Officer listed at the end of this document if you require a different application or if you have any questions.

It is recommended that licence applications be submitted prior to **March 31st** each year and may be submitted pending dates and funding information is tentative. Applications received after **March 31st** will take additional time to process (i.e. up to 8 weeks) due to DFO operational limitations during the summer research period.

You need to apply for a Marine Mammal/SARA Licence when:

Contemplating an activity affecting a marine mammal that is listed as 'Extirpated', 'Endangered' or 'Threatened' on Schedule 1 of the SARA. Species listed as Special Concern are under the authority of the Fisheries (General) Regulations and the Marine Mammal Regulations and therefore require a Marine Mammal Licence.

What kind of activities may be authorized under SARA?

To be successful in your licence application, your activity must fall into one of the following categories under section 73(2) of SARA. The agreement may be entered into, or the licence issued, only if the Minister is of the opinion that:

- a) The activity is scientific research relating to the conservation of the species and conducted by qualified persons;
- b) The activity benefits the species or is required to enhance its chance of survival in the wild; or
- c) Affecting the species is incidental to the carrying out of the activity.

Part I – Applicant Information:

An Animal Care Permit or equivalent is required for most research activities with the potential to disturb marine mammals, particularly if permission to capture or conduct invasive sampling is requested. If you believe that you require an ACC authorization and are not affiliated with an academic institution, please contact the DFO Program Officer listed at the end of this document.

Part II – Study/Project Information

Please provide information regarding the logistics of the proposed research and be as accurate as possible. If a study proposal or work plan has been developed, please attach it to your application. Numbers below pertain to the corresponding licence application numbers.

1. Identify the lead investigator as well as research assistants. Indicate if assistants will be working independently of lead investigator. If possible, provide a picture of the research vessel(s) that will be used and submit with your application.
2. Indicate all marine mammal species that the research/project will target or potentially impact. Information about the status and location of SARA-listed species can be obtained at the following website: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm
3. Indicate the locations where the activity will occur. A listing of DFO Statistical Areas is available at the following website: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/Areas/areamap_e.htm. A "blanket" licence for the entire BC coast will not be issued without a detailed project plan and sufficient justification. Multi-year permits will be issued for a maximum of 3 years for ongoing established research programs.
4. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain Foreign Vessel Clearance (FVC) when a non-Canadian vessel will be used for research purposes in Canadian waters and if the vessel(s) will be used to transit between Canadian and US waters. If possible provide a picture of the research vessel(s) that will be used and submit with your application. Please see the following website for more information: <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/ocns/opa/rvc/index.htm>. If you are towing a vessel for use in Canadian waters through the Canadian border ensure a Customs Clearance number is obtained as this is required for US vessels operating in Canadian waters.

5. When marine mammals or marine mammal parts are to be transported across provincial or territorial boundaries, a marine mammal transport licence must be obtained. Please refer to the following website for information on which species require a Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) permit: <http://www.cites.org/> to transport across an international boundary.
6. The “Be Whale Wise Guidelines - Marine Wildlife Guidelines for Boaters, Paddlers and Viewers (Revised 2006)” have been established to protect marine mammals from disturbance or harassment. Copies of the guidelines can also be obtained from the Program Manager or at http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species/marinemammals/view_e.htm
7. Self Explanatory
8. A detailed description of the project is necessary to assess potential impacts on the species of concern and other non targeted species. Please be specific as to the number, duration and distance of approach, restraints or sampling periods. If available, a work plan or proposal is useful in providing an assessment of the project.
9. Attach field collection methods and techniques.

Part III – Impact and Mitigation Assessment

10. It is important to list all SARA-listed species and non-SARA listed species that may occur in the proposed research area and the anticipated harassments and/or mortalities for each. For information on the distribution of listed species, visit the following website: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especies/index-eng.htm>
11. Describe in detail anticipated or potential disturbances or mortalities to all species listed in Section 10 and include impacts on habitat(s) used by the species. List each species, the nature of harm, and rank the likelihood of harm or encounters (High, Medium, Low).
12. For information specific to Section 73(3) pre-conditions of SARA refer to: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm. Pre-conditions (a) and (b) require that alternative measures such as area and/or time changes or changes to sampling gear or techniques must be considered and implemented if feasible before a licence can be issued. For pre-condition (c), please indicate (to the best of your knowledge) whether the proposed research activity, given (a) and (b), will jeopardize survival or recovery of the species. For the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to be of the opinion that all of the pre-conditions laid out in Section 73(3) have been met, the onus is on the project proponent to do the following:
 - Be proactive in their research design,
 - Demonstrate awareness of the provisions of SARA, and
 - Demonstrate that measures are being taken to minimise harm to listed species, and that they have considered all alternatives to carrying out the activity.

Part IV – SARA Recovery Planning Evaluation

13. Copies of final Recovery Strategies, Action Plans and Management Plans are available on the SARA website: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm. If recovery planning for the species under consideration has not been initiated, please indicate to the best of your ability how your proposed research/project supports species recovery.

Are other licences still required?

A Marine Mammal/SARA licence does not constitute an authorization to access property or supersede, cover or replace the need for other applicable authorizations which are the responsibility of the applicant., i.e. Foreign Vessel Clearance, National Wildlife Area research permits, Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) permits, Migratory Bird permits, additional Fisheries Act licences or Provincial permits under the BC Wildlife Act.

Submitting Your Application:

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions and send your completed application via fax or email to:

Annely Greene
DFO Marine Mammal Program Officer
Fisheries & Oceans Canada – Pacific Region
401 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC V6C 3S4

Phone: 604-666-0071 Fax: 604-666-3341 Email: Annely.Greene@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Marine Mammal/SARA Licence Application

Fisheries & Oceans Canada – Pacific Region

****Please use TAB key to move between fields for check boxes****

PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Date:		
Name:		
Organization:		
Street:		
City:		
Province/State:		
Country:	Postal Code/Zip:	
Phone:	Cellular:	Fax:
Email:		
Applicant Experience/Credentials: List relevant research programs, publications and/or attach CV.		
Do you or your organization hold an Animal Care Committee Permit for this work? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Attach copy to application - Permit # _____ If no, explain why <i>(Refer to Part I – Applicant Information)</i> .		
List previous issued Marine Mammal/SARA licence numbers:		
PART II - STUDY/PROJECT INFORMATION		
1. Personnel:		
Lead Investigator: _____		
Assistants: _____		
2. Species Information:		
Species Studied: _____		
3. Dates & Location:		
Study Period: From: _____ To: _____		
Are you requesting a multi year licence? If yes, state reason for request below. <i>(Refer to Part II, Item 3 of the Instructions)</i>		
Yes No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Study Area/Location: _____		
<small>(For DFO Statistical areas refer to Part II, Item 3 of the instructions)</small>		
4. Vessel Information: Attach photograph of research vessel(s) with your application.		
Vessel Name: _____		
Vessel Registration #: _____		
Country of Registration: _____		
If vessel is registered outside of Canada, have you applied for Foreign Vessel Clearance? <i>(If no, please refer to Part II, Item 4 of the Instructions)</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Comment: _____		

METHODOLOGY:

5. Will animals be subjected to invasive sampling? Invasive sampling includes any methodology that involves capture and restraint of animals, direct or remote sampling of blood or tissues and the attachment of any apparatus to the marine mammal. Yes No

a) If yes, how many samples will be taken?

6 a) Will live animals be collected? Yes No

b) If yes, how many animals will be collected?

c) Will live animals be transported from one marine environment to another marine environment or holding facility? Yes No

d) If yes, state location and rationale:

e) If yes to d) will animals be returned into the marine environment in the future? Yes No

f) If yes, state location and rationale:

g) Will animals, specimens or samples be transported? Yes No

i) Within British Columbia? Yes No

ii) To another Province or Territory in Canada Yes No

iii) Across an international boundary? (*Refer to Part II, Item 5 CITES in the Instructions*) Yes No

7. Do you propose to be in contravention of regionally posted guidelines (Be Whale Wise Guidelines – for Boaters, Paddlers and Viewers) for any planned activity? If yes explain rationale. (*Refer to Part II, Item 6 of the Instructions*) Yes No

8. Objective of Research/Project:

9. Explain field collections/study techniques. Attach project work plan/proposal if available.

PART III – IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.	SARA Species to be included in Permit:	Anticipated # of mortalities for each species:
	Non-SARA Species to be included in Permit:	Anticipated # of mortalities for each species:

11. Describe anticipated or potential disturbances to the identified species, other species and/or the habitat:

12. Based on the pre-conditions in Section 73(3) of SARA, the proponent should specify: (*addressing a through c is mandatory for SARA species – see instructions*)

a) What alternatives to the proposed method of conducting the activity have you considered? How is the chosen method the best solution to reduce impact to the species?

b) What mitigation measures have been included, and how do they minimize the potential impacts on listed species and/or habitats? What mitigation measures have been considered and not included, and for what reasons were they rejected?

c) Will the activities you plan to undertake jeopardize survival or recovery of the species, in light of measures in 12(a) and 12(b) above? If not, why not?

PART IV – SARA RECOVERY PLANNING EVALUATION

13. Has the proposed project/study been recommended in a SARA Recovery Strategy, Action Plan or Management plan? Please identify section.

14. Will the proposed project/study assist in the recovery of the species identified? Please explain.