



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

NOAA Aircraft Operations Center  
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April 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM:

SUBJECT: Flight Clearance of Scan Eagle Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)  
Ice Seals Habitat Project, May – June 2009

Certificate of Authorization (COA) application #1234 for photographic surveys of Bearing Sea Ice Seals has been reviewed on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and OMAO by the AOC.

Airworthiness Statement

Per MIL-HDBK-516B (Airworthiness Certification Criteria), Par. 1.2 Applicability, the Scan Eagle UAS is considered expendable when operating from the NOAA Ship *McArthur II* for the 2009 Ice Seal Habitat Project. As Such, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center accepts that the Scan Eagle UAS may be lost during operations and OMAO/AOC has determined that the associated risks are acceptable.

Airworthiness criteria to approve the Scan Eagle UAS include:

- Successful completion of test flights onboard NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson* in October of 2008
- U.S. Navy (NAVAIR) Scan Eagle certification for operations onboard *USS Milius* (DDG-69), October 2008
- U.S. Navy (NAVAIR) UAS Interim Flight Clearance for Scan Eagle Operations at Arlington Oregon Airport, January 2007
- University of Alaska Fairbanks Statement of Airworthiness for Insight A-20 [Scan Eagle], January 2008

Operations onboard *McArthur II* will be limited to open water during May – June 2009.

Operational Safety Review

Due to the lightweight, uncomplicated nature of the Scan Eagle UAS, combined with the extremely remote areas of operations, it was determined that safe operations can be executed. The AOC has reviewed and cleared the Scan Eagle UAS for flight as specified in this COA application and the Final Cruise Instructions for the Ice Seals Habitat Project.

