NUNAVUT WILDLIFE OBSERVATION LICENCE

**APPLICANT:** Titan Productions

**ADDRESS:** Whiteladies House, 51-55 Whiteladies Rd, Redland, Bristol BS8 2LY

**PHONE:** [0117 307 2300](https://www.google.com/search?q=plimsoll+productions&rlz=1C5CHFA_enGB889GB889&oq=plimsol&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j46i175i199j69i57j0i433j69i60l3j69i65.1226j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

**FAX:**

**EMAIL: Sarah.Deacon@plimsollproductions.com**

**SPONSOR(S)/FUNDING SOURCES (and extent of involvement):** 100% of the funding is provided by Titan Productions (a wholly owned subsidiary of Plimsoll Productions) as part of a larger project producing a natural history documentary series.

**ADDITIONAL LICENCES REQUIRED: N /A**

**PROJECT TITLE:** TITAN

**TIME PERIOD:** 3rd – 25th July 2021

**LOCATION:** Coats Island, Northern Hudson Bay

**SPECIES:** Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*), Thick-billed murre (*Uria lomvia*), Atlantic Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*), Beluga Whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*)

**ACTIVITY LEADERS:** George Pretty

**ACTIVITY PERSONNEL:** George Pretty, Aaron Emiktowt, Ernie Kovacs, David Paliak, Jordan Emiktowt, Eric Emiktowt PLIMSOLL ASSISTANT)

**EXPERIENCE OF PERSONNEL** *Relevant to Activity*):

**George Pretty** has over 8 years experience working in film and television, shooting in remote locations around the world. He holds an undergraduate honors degree in Zoology focusing on animal behavior, and a post-graduate degree in Producing & Directing Science & Natural History Documentary. He is an experienced camera operator, assistant and a qualified drone pilot.

**Aaron Emiktowt** is a highly experienced local captain and Arctic guide, having led numerous boat-based expeditions around Coats Island and throughout Nunavut. Aaron owns the cabin on the Island that the crew will be using as base camp, as well as the vessels being used. He has used these vessles to sail to Coats Island many times. Aaron is fully aware of the environment and its challenges. Aaron will also be accompanied by two assistants, both whom are local and familiar with this setup.

**Ernie Kovacs** is a highly experienced cameraman specializing in gyro-stabalized and underwater filming setups for natural history. He has filmed numerous wildlife sequences all over the world and is skilled in shooting in remote locations with delicate animals.

**PROPOSED ACTIVITY:**

Filming is for a new 10-part wildlife documentary series that is currently in production, under the working title ‘TITAN’. The series is for a major global SVOD (subscription video on demand) service and aims to use novel techniques and technologies to bring a new perspective to the natural history genre.

We are hoping to film at Coats Island for 3 weeks in July 2021. The primary aim of the shoot will be to film polar bears climbing on the cliffs at Coats Island to feast on seabird eggs.

In addition, we hope to film a variety of other species that may be present in the area, including walrus, beluga, as well as the spectacular landscapes of the area.. We intend to focus our filming exclusively on animal behavior and the landscape.

**METHODS:**

The film crew will consist of a director, cameraman and a camera assistant. A location crew of three guides led by Aaron Emiktowt of Siku Tours will assist the film crew throughout the shoot. The entire team will set up base camp and reside in a hunting cabin on the Island owned by Aaron Emiktowt. Two powers boats and two ATV’s owned by Aaron will be used to travel around the island. The filming will take place almost entirely by boat for 3 weeks at Coats Island and the surrounding area, with the crew then returning to reside in the cabin each night.

The 3-person film crew will arrive in Coral Harbour via plane on the 3rd of July, having quarantined in a southern isolation hub for 14 days prior. They will then immediately head to the harbor to load onto the filming vessels. The crew will create an isolated ‘bubble’ for the duration of the shoot to minimize risks during the current pandemic. The vessels and cabin will be stocked to support the crew for the duration of the shoot. The crew will then sail to Coats Island where they will be based for the next 3 weeks, attempting to film animal behavior around the Island.. Filming will mostly be done from the boat using a long lens, gyrostablised camera system. This traditional setup means that the majority of filming can be done at a great distance from the cliff face we intend to shoot most of the film. When possible and suitable, a quiet, lightweight drone will be used to capture aerial perspectives of the animals. This drone use has been approved by the Canadian Wildlife Service and discussed with the migratory seabird researchers, who both agree this will be a suitable way to gain footage without disturbing the bird colony and bears with human presence.

At the end of the filming period, the crew will set sail back to Coral Harbour on the 25th of July to unload the filming vessel and fly back to Ottawa.

**ACTIVITY SUSPENSION PLAN:**

We are aware of the disturbance rules surrounding migratory seabirds and have consulted the Canadian Wildlife Service and the bird researchers of Coats Island regarding our shoot. We have discussed our filming methods with them and have taken advice from them on the method of filming to reduce any disturbance to the seabird colony and polar bears.

In all cases when filming and in general proximity to wildlife, if our presence is causing a disturbance, we will immediately cease activities and, when necessary, retreat to a safe distance. We will remain at this distance with our activity suspended until it is agreed by all members of the crew that it is safe and suitable to continue. Our crew are experienced in working with wild animals and making these types of decisions, and will always have the animals’ welfare and their own safety at the forefront of any activity. In addition, Titan productions standard practice is to create an additional internal risk assessment with details of typical animal behaviors and ways to minimize disturbance to wildlife as well as mitigating safety risks for the crew.

**WILDLIFE DETERRENCE PLAN:**

*Detail strategies and decision tree employed for preventing, dealing with, and reporting human-wildlife conflicts, with particular reference to polar bears.*

The guides will brief the crew fully at the beginning of the shoot. Crew will maintain a safe working distance of at least 50 meters from any bear at all times. The crew will act in accordance with the local guides protocols and commands at all times.

For the majority of the filming, we plan to work from a great distance in order to prevent any possible occurrence of conflict between humans and wildlife. During filming the crew will almost always be boat based and using a long lens camera system. The vessel will provide safety and distance from dangerous animals, such as polar bears and walrus, throughout the shoot. An armed guide will be present with the film crew at all times. This guard will keep watch for bears whilst the crew are filming, paying particular attention to bears approaching from behind. In the event that the crew can leave the boat to film from the ice, the boat will be stationary at the ice edge at all time. The crew will stay close to the vessel whilst filming on land, being able to retreat quickly should a bear approach to an unsafe distance. They will take paramount care not to let a bear get between them and the vessel.

If a bear makes unwanted movements towards the crew, the guide will use hand gestures and clear vocal signals, alerting the crew to cease filming and return to the vehicle. Should the bear continue to show unwanted interest and begin to approach the crew, the guide will first use an airhorn to deter the bear. Should this fail, the use of a deterrent will be escalated. Only if absolutely necessary should a flare be used.

Authorities will be notified of any human-wildlife conflicts immediately, should any occur during our time at working Coats Island and throughout Nunavut. Multiple members of crew are qualified first aiders for remote locations and able to deal with scenarios involving injury to crew members. If a critical emergency situation occurs involving our crew, our Medevac procedure will be put in place to retrieve the crew as quickly as possible. Local authorities will be notified immediately and if necessary, the Canadian Wildlife service. A satellite phone and directory of emergency contacts for the territory will be provided to the crew, so any relevant authorities can be contacted depending on the situation.

**Will there be fuel cached for this project (Yes / No):**

*If yes, give the number of drums, type of fuel, location of the caches, and the dates of deployment /removal.*

There will be no fuel cached.

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PLAN:**Our team will consult and gain approval for our filming activity from the local community. Titan Productions has reached out to both the Aivitt Hunters and Trapper Organization, the Kivalliq Inuit Association and Coral Harbour Hamlet. Our proposal is currently being discussed amongst the local community and is pending approval.

**PROPOSED USE OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE:**
Our production has gained advice and local knowledge from the migratory bird researchers of Coats Island. The first-hand knowledge of the exact location and timing of this behavior has been invaluable to the production. Advice on how to capture footage whilst maintaining the safety of the seabird colony has been taken into account and we will maintain communication with these researchers throughout the planning and undertaking of the filming trip..

Aaron and his guides are local to area and own the cabin in which the crew will be residing. They regularly work with the researchers of the island, providing logistical support for workers on and around Coats Island.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL PARTICIPATION:**

Aaron and his guides from Siku tours will be used throughout the whole production period of this shoot, providing logistical support and bear protection for our filming crew whilst filming on Coats Island. Siku Tours will also provide transportation to and from Coral Harbour.

The production and crew are very aware of the Nunavut territories' position throughout the current pandemic and are committed to limiting any possible risk of Covid-19 exposure during the shoot. As a precaution to the local community and ourselves, we will not be looking for any other local participation outside of Siku Tours.

However, if participation can be done remotely, our production is very open to consultation and collaboration with other members the local community in any ways we can.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:**

This application is submitted and will be evaluated prior to issuance of a Wildlife Observation Licence, as issued by the Department of Environment – Wildlife Management Division, Nunavut Territory. All submitted applications become the property of the Department of Environment– Wildlife Division and may not be returned to the applicant.

The application review process requires that copies be distributed to a number of reviewers. The contents of this application form may be subject to access under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The applicant must to pay the required fee before the licence will be issued. Payment can be made at…

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Nunavut Resident | Non-resident | Non-resident Foreigner |
| Licence Fee | $25.00 | $25.00 | $25.00 |
| Licence Surcharge | $75.00 | $150.00 | $150.00 |
| Total Cost | $100.00 | $175.00 | $175.00 |

Principal Applicant’s signature Date

Sarah Deacon

Additional Personnel’s signature Date

George Pretty

**RABIES ADVISORY:**

Rabies is a naturally occurring disease that is endemic to wildlife, particularly canids, in Nunavut. Rabies can infect human beings, and if left untreated can cause death. All persons who may be exposed to rabies are strongly encouraged to obtain and keep updated with the pre-exposure vaccination.

All applications for Wildlife Observation Licences should be submitted to:

Coordinator, Operations and Regulations Department of Environment

P.O. Box 1000, Stn 1320, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Tel: (867) 975-7782

Fax: (867) 979-8890

Email: jneely@gov.nu.ca

File size must be under 5MB when sending application via e-mail. Please use multiple e-mails if necessary.