

Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a) (3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Docket Number: 97-014. Applicant: University of New Orleans, Department of Chemistry, 2000 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70148. Instrument: Mass Spectrometer, Model VG AutoSpec. Manufacturer: Micromass, Inc., United Kingdom. Intended Use: The article is intended to be used for studies of compounds (anti-convulsant compounds, cocaine analogues, carceplexes, glycolipids, phosphazine derivatives, natural toxins and environmental pollutants) synthesized in coordination with on-going research in organic, inorganic, physical and analytical chemistry laboratories. The objectives of the investigations will be identification of compounds polluting the environment, synthesis of new products for the treatment of drug addiction, synthesis of new drugs for the treatment of epilepsy and related disorders, and remediation of environmental pollution. In addition, the instrument will be used for educational purposes in the courses CHEM 4030 Instrumental Analysis Laboratory and CHEM 6117 Advanced Mass Spectrometry. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: February 6, 1997.

Docket Number: 97-016. Applicant: Duke University, Free-Electron Laser Laboratory, LaSalle Street Extension, Durham, NC 27708-0319. Instrument: Interferometer. Manufacturer: SF SDB "Granat", C.I.S. Intended Use: The instrument will be used for studies of the following phenomena: (1) Extremely narrowband, nonlinear optical processes in solids and gases, e.g. surface studies, (2) chemical reaction dynamics under single mode excitation, e.g. isotope separation, (3) molecular energy transfer in long-lived excited states, (4) highly

resolved and efficient spectral hole burning, (5) the strength and shape of "forbidden" transitions and (6) the efficiency of nonlinear frequency-mixing interactions. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: February 11, 1997.

Docket Number: 97-017. Applicant: University of California, San Diego, Department of Medicine 0931, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0931. Instrument: Sleep Recorder, Model Vitaport 2. Manufacturer: TEMEC Instruments BV, The Netherlands. Intended Use: The instrument will be used for studies of the effects of microgravity on the human body, especially sleep functions, circadian rhythm changes and pulmonary function. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: February 11, 1997.

Docket Number: 97-018. Applicant: Ohio University, Department of Biological Sciences, Irvine Hall, Athens, OH 45701. Instrument: Electron Microscope, Model JEM-1010. Manufacturer: JEOL Ltd., Japan. Intended Use: The instrument will be used for processing of biological tissues in various studies of muscles, the nervous system, mosquitoes, Antarctic fishes and the invertebrate digestive system to show the subtle changes and the minute structural adaptations of the tissues. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: February 13, 1997.

Docket Number: 97-019. Applicant: The Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Instrument: Fiber-Electrode Micromanipulator. Manufacturer: Thomas Recording Sci. Res., Germany. Intended Use: The instrument will be used in studies of brain functions; specifically, how do neurons in the brain process sensory information? Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: February 20, 1997.

Docket Number: 97-020. Applicant: University of Texas at Austin, Marine Science Institute, 750 Channelview Drive, Port Aransas, TX 78373. Instrument: IR Mass Spectrometer, Model DELTA^{plus}. Manufacturer: Finnigan MAT, Germany. Intended Use: The article is intended to be used for microbiological, ecological, physiological and chemical studies of the ocean. This research will use the stable isotope compositions of the bioactive elements, such as carbon, nitrogen and sulfur to delineate metabolic pathways, understand food webs in natural environments and determine the sources, transformations and fates of these elements in ecosystems. The instrument will

determine the carbon nitrogen and sulfur isotopic ratios of gases, solids and liquids in the natural state with minimal sample preparation. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: February 20, 1997.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 97-7240 Filed 3-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

Telecommunications Trade Mission to Rome

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology and Aerospace Industries will lead a telecommunications trade mission to Rome, Italy on May 11-14, 1997. The mission's goal is to provide first-hand market information and access to key Italian government officials and potential business partners for 7 to 15 U.S. telecom firms desiring to expand their presence in the Italian market. New opportunities for U.S. firms are being opened by the liberalization of Italian regulatory policy to allow competition in telecom services and related infrastructure.

DATES: Interested U.S. firms should apply to participate in the mission as soon as possible. All application requirements must be completed by April 11.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for further information should be addressed to the Project Officer, Myles Denny-Brown, Room 4324, the Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., 20230. Due to the short deadline, it is recommended that replies be by fax at (202) 482-5834 or phone at (202) 482-0398.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The criteria for selection of mission participants are:

- Relevance of a company's business line to mission goals
- Timeliness of completed application by company (including participation fee)
- Minimum of seven, maximum of fifteen participating companies in mission
- Potential for business in Italy for company

Any partisan political activities (including political contributions) of an applicant are entirely irrelevant to the selection process.

Italy has one of the fastest growing telecommunications markets in Europe,

valued at \$8 billion for telecom equipment and \$20 billion for telecommunications services in 1996. The Deputy Assistant Secretary and his delegation will meet with senior officials from the Italian Ministry of Communications to obtain detailed information on steps the Government of Italy is taking to introduce telecommunications services competition in its market by January 1998. Similarly the delegation will meet with senior officials from STET/Telecom Italia to obtain in-depth information on their privatization plans and strategic partner search and on opportunities for U.S. telecom firms in this regard. Finally participating U.S. firms will be introduced to qualified Italian business partners through mission events and a series of one-on-one meetings.

Dated: March 17, 1997.

Myles Denny-Brown,
Project Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-7207 Filed 3-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031397E]

Endangered Species; Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of scientific research permit 1028, modification 1 to scientific research permit 943, and receipt of a request to modify scientific research permit 984.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on February 7, 1997, NMFS issued modification 1 to scientific research Permit 943 to Thomas Savoy, of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (P430A). On March 6, 1997, NMFS issued scientific research Permit 1028 to Steve Serfling of Mote Marine Laboratory (P610A). In addition, Drs. Mary L. Moser and Steve W. Ross of the University of North Carolina (P423B) have requested a modification to Permit 984. All three permits authorize the take of listed shortnose sturgeon for the purpose of scientific research subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on the request to modify Permit 984 must be received on or before April 21, 1997, and must be submitted to the Chief, Endangered

Species Division, Office of Protected Resources (see **ADDRESSES**).

ADDRESSES: The applications, permits, and related documents are available for review by appointment in the following offices:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room 13307, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508-281-9250) for Permit 943; or

Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813-893-3141) for Permits 984 and 1028.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice was published on September 6, 1996 (61 FR 47113) that an application had been filed by Thomas Savoy, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (P430A), for a modification to Permit 943 to take listed shortnose sturgeon as authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222).

On February 7, 1997, NMFS issued modification 1 to Permit 943. The original permit authorized collecting, handling, and tagging of 800 shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) per year in the Connecticut River, within the boundaries of the State of Connecticut. These sturgeon were captured, measured, examined, tagged, and released. Ten of these sturgeon could receive a radio or sonic transmitter. The purpose of the research is to determine current numbers, locations, and movement patterns of shortnose sturgeon within the Connecticut River. The purpose of the modification request is to test theories and gain information on spawning and migration. The modified permit authorizes: 1) The collection and release of 400 adult shortnose sturgeon and 100 juvenile shortnose sturgeon; 2) the lethal take of 150 shortnose sturgeon larvae and 150 shortnose sturgeon eggs; 3) the attachment of a radio or sonic transmitter to 25 of the adult shortnose sturgeon; and 4) a increase in the study area to include the CT River in CT and southern MA downstream of the Holyoke Dam.

Notice was published on November 22, 1996 (61 FR 59419) that an application had been filed by Steven Serfling of Mote Marine Laboratory (P610A), to take listed shortnose sturgeon as authorized by the ESA. The applicant requested a five-year permit to hold, breed, and conduct research on

the following captive, hatchery-raised, shortnose sturgeon: 150 fry, 130 fingerlings, 110 juveniles, and 80 adults. The research would be conducted at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Florida, to determine effects of high temperatures, low oxygen, and salinity on the survival and growth of shortnose sturgeon.

The applicant also requested authorization to locate wild shortnose sturgeon in the St. John's and St. Marys rivers in Florida. If any sturgeon are found, tissue samples would be collected for toxic compound analysis, and the fish would be released at the original location of take. On March 6, 1997, NMFS issued Permit 1028 authorizing the above activities. Captive shortnose sturgeon must be returned to the hatchery where they originated, and may not be released into the wild.

Drs. Mary Moser and Steve W. Ross of the University of North Carolina (P423B) have requested a modification to Permit 984 to take listed shortnose sturgeon as authorized by the ESA. The applicants currently have a 2-year permit to take shortnose sturgeon in rivers of NC, to determine distribution and habitat use. The permit authorizes 30 adult shortnose sturgeon to be weighed, measured, photographed, tagged, have tissue samples taken, and be released. Up to 10 of these adult shortnose sturgeon may be tagged with an ultrasonic transmitter, and tracked. Eggs and larvae may be collected to gather information on spawning sites. The applicants request two changes to their permit: 1) To extend the permit until December 31, 2000; and 2) to remove authorization to conduct research in the Alligator and Chowan Rivers and instead have authorization to conduct research on the Pee Dee and Waccamaw Rivers.

Issuance of this permit and modified permits, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit and modification: (1) Were applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permits and modifications, and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Those individuals requesting a hearing on the request to modify Permit 984 should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the request summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.