

6, 2001 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. The Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology is composed of nine members appointed by the Director of NIST; who are eminent in such fields as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment, and international relations. The purpose of this meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the Institute, its organization, its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda will include a Cross-cut Review of Human Resources, a presentation by a member of the Visiting Committee, a laboratory tour of the Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology, and a Cross-cut Review of NIST Impact on Law Enforcement. Discussions scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. end at 5:15 p.m. on June 5, 2001 and to begin at 8:15 a.m. and to end at 11:40 a.m. on June 6, 2001, on staffing of management positions at NIST, the NIST budget, including funding levels of the Advanced Technology Program and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and feedback sessions will be closed.

DATES: The meeting will convene June 5, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 11:40 a.m. on June 6, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Employees Lounge, Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet R. Russell, Administrative Coordinator, Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1004, telephone number (301) 975-2107.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on February 12, 2001, that portions of the meeting of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology which involve discussion of proposed funding of the Advanced Technology Program and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), because those portions of the meetings will divulge matters the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency actions; and that portions of meetings which involve discussion of the staffing issues of management and other positions at NIST may be closed in accordance with

5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), because divulging information discussed in those portions of the meetings is likely to reveal information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: May 14, 2001.

Karen H. Brown,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 01-12688 Filed 5-18-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051001B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a scientific research permit (1316); Issuance of permits 1298 and 1266.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement under the Endangered Species Act (ESA): NMFS has received an application for a scientific research permit from Dr. Jeff Schmid, of The Conservancy of Southwest Florida; NMFS has issued permit 1298 to Ms. Melissa Salmon, of Riverbanks Zoological Park and permit 1266 to John Glass, of REMSA, Inc.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time on June 20, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on any of the new applications or modification requests should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the application or modification request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (phone:

301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Scientific research and/or enhancement permits are issued under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that 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 permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are covered in this notice:

Sea turtles

Threatened and endangered Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Endangered Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*)

Endangered Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Threatened Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Fish

Endangered Shortnose Sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)

New Applications Received

Application 1316

The applicant proposes to characterize the essential habitat associations of subadult Kemp's ridley turtles in the nearshore waters of the upper Ten Thousand Islands. The objectives are: (1) to monitor the movements of Kemp's ridley turtles via radio and sonic telemetry and to

quantify their habitat utilization from the geographical position data, (2) to produce a geographic information system (GIS) database of benthic habitats and subsequently map the habitat types within the study area, and (3) to test for habitat preferences of Kemp's ridley turtles in this region by comparing the amount of time a turtle spends in a given habitat relative to the availability of all other habitat types.

Permits and Modified Permits Issued

Permit #1298

Notice was published on March 5, 2001 (66 FR 13305), that Ms. Melissa Salmon, of Riverbanks Zoological Park applied for an enhancement permit (1298). The applicant has requested a 5-year permit to continue to maintain eleven adult shortnose sturgeon received from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in 1996 for education purposes. NMFS believes that captive maintenance of endangered shortnose sturgeon for enhancement purposes is to the benefit of the species as a whole. The source for the captive display are shortnose sturgeon maintained in hatchery settings that have been deemed non-releasable by NMFS. Because these cultured sturgeon have been deemed non-releasable at this time by NMFS, alternatives to sacrifice were needed. The recovery team for shortnose sturgeon felt that these cultured fish provided an excellent opportunity to educate the public and increase awareness of the species and its plight. These fish are used in research activities and, as recommended by the recovery team, in enhancement activities such as public education. Permit 1298 was issued on May 4, 2001, authorizing take of listed species. Permit 1298 expires May 31, 2006.

Permit #1266

Notice was published on October 19, 2000 (65 FR 62709), that John Glass, of REMSA, Inc. applied for a research/enhancement permit (1266). The applicant requested a 5-year permit to take leatherback, green, loggerhead, Kemp's ridley and green turtles from the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico in conjunction with US Army Corps of Engineer Dredging projects for scientific research and enhancement purposes. Permit 1266 was issued on May 8, 2001, authorizing take of listed species. Permit 1266 expires April 30, 2006.

Dated: May 15, 2001.

Phil Williams,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 01-12747 Filed 5-18-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051401C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research and Enhancement Permit (PHF# 116-1477)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that SeaWorld of Texas, 10500 Sea World Drive, San Antonio, Texas, 78251, has applied in due form for an amendment to Permit No. 116-1477 to take Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 20, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s): (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit amendment is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and

Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222.23).

Permit No. 116-1477 authorizes the permit holder to permanently transfer ten (10) captive, unreleasable female Hawaiian monk seals from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Kewalo Research Facility to SeaWorld of Texas for research and enhancement purposes. The primary objective of the Permit is to make the seals available for scientific research on an opportunistic basis in order to benefit the wild population of Hawaiian monk seals. As provided for in the Permit, the permit holder requests authorization to conduct research studies on the ten captive female Hawaiian monk seals now permanently held at SeaWorld of Texas. The research study involves systematic feeding of certain prey to the captive seals and subsequent comparison of fatty acid composition of blubber samples with the fatty acid composition of the food consumed. The goal is to determine whether the assessment of fatty acid signatures in blubber samples of free-ranging Hawaiian monk seals may be an appropriate and reliable method for qualitative and quantitative assessment of their diet. This study is aimed at reducing or eliminating adverse interactions between current and anticipated fishing operations with free-ranging Hawaiian monk seals.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this amendment application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors. The application and related documents are available for review in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 713-0376;

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018;