

mammals occur within or near south VAFB harbor.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments and information concerning this request (see **ADDRESSES**). Prior to submitting comments, NMFS recommends readers review NMFS' responses to those comments on this activity submitted previously (see 67 FR 63151, May 23, 2002, 68 FR 36540, June 18, 2003, and 69 FR 29696, May 25, 2004).

Dated: March 16, 2005.

Michael Payne,

Division Chief, Marine Mammal and Turtle Conservation District, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 05-5753 Filed 3-22-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031105F]

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: On March 14, 2005, NMFS announced its intent to hold 12 public hearings in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida in March and April 2005 for the purpose of answering questions and receiving public testimony on the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). NMFS will hold an additional public hearing in East Machias, Maine in April 2005.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** under the heading "Hearing Dates, Times, and Locations" for the dates and locations of the public hearings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Borggaard, NMFS, Northeast Region, 978-281-9300 ext. 6503; Barb Zoodsma, NMFS, Southeast Region, 904-321-2806; or Kristy Long, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, 301-713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 25, 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Availability in the **Federal**

Register announcing the availability of the DEIS for public review and comment. The DEIS is open for public comment from February 25, 2005 to April 26, 2005. The public has the opportunity to submit comments on the document by any one of the following methods:

(1) NMFS/Northeast Region Website: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/com>. Follow the instructions on the website for submitting comments.

(2) E-mail: whaledeis.comments@noaa.gov.

(3) Mail: Mary Colligan, Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, NMFS, Northeast Region, 1 Blackburn Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930, ATTN: ALWTRP DEIS.

(4) Facsimile (fax) to: 978-281-9394, ATTN: ALWTRP DEIS.

(5) Public hearings: submit oral comments at one of the DEIS public hearings.

NMFS has scheduled another public hearing on the DEIS in addition to the 12 already announced (70 FR 12446, March 14, 2005). The purpose of these hearings is to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions on the DEIS, as well as to submit formal oral testimony on the document during the comment period. Information on the public hearings can also be found on the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/>.

Hearing Dates, Times, and Locations

The date, time, and location of the hearing is as follows:

Wednesday, April 6, 2005 - East Machias, ME - 6-9 p.m.—Washington Academy (Gardner Gym), One High Street, East Machias, ME 04630

Special Accommodations

These hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Diane Borggaard at 978-281-9300 ext. 6503 at least 7 working days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: March 17, 2005.

Donna S. Weiting,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 05-5751 Filed 3-22-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020905A]

Endangered Species; File No. 1449

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Christine A. Tomich, Kleinschmidt Associates, Kleinschmidt Building, 35 Pratt Street, Essex, Connecticut, 06426, has been issued a permit to take shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 427-2521; and

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978) 281-9200; fax (978) 281-9371.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Jefferies or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 18, 2004, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 51267) that a request for a scientific research permit to take shortnose sturgeon had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Ms. Tomich is authorized to conduct three projects. In the first project, 30 captive bred juvenile sturgeon will be externally radio tagged, released into the canal, tracked and recaptured after exiting the canal. In the second project, 50 adult sturgeon will be captured annually for four years via trawls and gillnets, measured, weighed, a subset of 20 PIT tagged and externally radio tagged, released and tracked. In the third project, 200 eggs and larvae will be captured via D-nets and preserved to evaluate spawning behavior. This permit is authorized for five years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an environmental assessment was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities. After a Finding of No Significant Impact, the determination was made that it was not necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 14, 2005.

Steve L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 05-5749 Filed 3-22-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031105E]

Endangered Species; File No. 1409

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Karen G. Holloway-Adkins, Executive Director of East Coast Biologists, Inc., Indialantic, FL 32903, has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1409.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before April 22, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The modification request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 427-2521; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax (727) 824-5309.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education 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 modification request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1409.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification to Permit No. 1409, issued on July 28, 2003 (68 FR 44297) is requested under the authority of 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 and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Permit No. 1409 authorizes the permit holder to conduct research on green (*Chelonia mydas*) and loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) for scientific research. The research is attempting to characterize the turtle aggregations using the nearshore reefs in central Brevard County as developmental habitat and to better understand their foraging habitats and movements. The permit holder requests authorization to increase the research area by an additional 3.4 miles (5.5 kilometers) to the south in order to study animals using the lower less dense reefs in this area. No increase in take or additional research activities are requested.

Dated: March 17, 2005.

Stephen L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 05-5750 Filed 3-22-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031705A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Permit modifications and request for new research permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received three scientific research permit applications and two modification requests relating to Pacific salmon. The proposed research is intended to increase knowledge of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to help guide management and conservation efforts.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific daylight-saving time on April 22, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the application should be sent to Protected Resources Division, NMFS, F/NWO3, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232-2737. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503-230-5441 or by e-mail to resapps.nwr@NOAA.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garth Griffin, Portland, OR (ph.: 503-231-2005, Fax: 503-230-5441, e-mail: Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov). Permit application instructions are available at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

The following listed species and evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) are covered in this notice:

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): endangered naturally-produced and artificially propagated upper Columbia River (UCR); threatened naturally-produced and artificially propagated Snake River (SR) spring/summer (spr/sum); threatened SR fall; threatened lower Columbia River (LCR); threatened upper Willamette River (UWR); threatened naturally-produced and artificially propagated Puget Sound (PS).

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): threatened Columbia River (CR).

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened SR; threatened middle Columbia River (MCR); endangered UCR; threatened LCR; threatened UWR.