

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.

Dated: March 17, 1997.

Joseph R. Blum,

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

[FR Doc. 97-7208 Filed 3-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Public Hearing for the Joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environment Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Disposal and Proposed Reuse of the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Oakland, CA

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15170, the Department of the Navy, in coordination with the Port of Oakland, has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environment Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Navy disposal and Port of Oakland reuse of the Navy Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Oakland (FISCO) property and structures in Oakland, California. The Navy will be the EIS lead agency for the NEPA documentation and the Port of Oakland will be the EIR lead agency for the CEQA documentation. The Federal Highway Administration is a cooperating agency for the EIS and the California Department of Transportation is a responsible agency for the EIR. FISCO is scheduled to close in September 1998 in compliance with the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) directive from Congress. The Draft EIS/EIR addresses the potential impacts to the environment that may result from the disposal of FISCO via special legislation (Public Law 104-106 Section 2867) to the Port of Oakland.

FISCO is within the planning jurisdiction of the Port of Oakland. The Port of Oakland Vision 2000 Program proposes development of ship, railroad, and truck freight handling facilities to meet the anticipated demand for transportation services in the San Francisco Bay area and northern California and an intermodal port of national and international commerce. The Vision 2000 Program also includes development of public waterfront access and marine habitat enhancement.

The joint EIS/EIR provides a program level analysis supporting both the Navy NEPA requirements to describe potential environmental impacts associated with the property disposal at FISCO, and the Port of Oakland CEQA requirements to analyze environmental impacts of implementing the Vision 2000 Program.

The Draft EIS/EIR evaluates a "No Action" alternative and four Port of Oakland reuse alternatives. The "No Action" alternative would result in the federal government indefinitely retaining ownership of the nonreversionary Navy property. Under the "No Action" alternative, the Navy would continue leasing the property to the Port of Oakland under the existing 50 year lease agreement allowed by Public Law 102-484.

The four reuse alternatives combine the common land use components of a railroad terminal, marine terminals, public waterfront access and marine habitat enhancement. As FISCO is within the Port of Oakland jurisdiction and is designated as a Port Priority use area in the April 1996 San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Seaport Plan Update, these four alternatives emphasize port-related activities. The Port of Oakland Vision 2000 Program may require additional property outside the FISCO boundary in order to meet the objectives of the Program.

ADDRESSES: The Draft EIS/EIR is available for review at the following public libraries in the vicinity of FISCO: (1) West Oakland Public Library, 1801 Adeline Street, Oakland, CA; (2) Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland, CA; and (3) Alameda Main Library, 2264 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA. The Navy will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 8, 1997, at 7:00 p.m., in the West Oakland Library, 1801 Adeline Street, Oakland, California. Federal, state and local agencies, and interested individuals are invited to be present or represented at the hearing. Oral comments will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer. To assure accuracy of the record, all comments should be submitted in writing. All comments, both oral and written, will become part of the public record in the study. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to five minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing either at the hearing or mailed to the address listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: All written comments concerning the Draft EIS/EIR must be submitted no later than April 22, 1997 to Mr. Gary J. Munekawa (Code 1852GM), Engineering Field Activity West, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 900 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, California 94066-5006, telephone (415) 244-3022, fax (415) 244-3737. For information regarding the Port of Oakland Vision 2000 Program or the Draft EIR, please contact Ms. Loretta Meyer, Port of Oakland, Environmental Assessment Section, 530 Water Street, Oakland, California 94607, telephone (510) 272-1181, or fax (510) 465-3755. A limited number of additional Draft EIS/EIR documents are available on request.

Dated: March 18, 1997.

D.E. Koenig,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-7238 Filed 3-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-F

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Multi-Purpose Pilot Plant Campus; Expression of Interest and Comment Request

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Savannah River (SR) Office.

ACTION: Expressions of interest.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at SR is requesting Expressions of Interest and soliciting comments on several key issues which could significantly affect the Multi-Purpose Pilot Plant Campus (MPPC, formerly known as "TNX") located at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina. DOE is in the initial phases of executing a program to: (1) obtain a manager, operator, and marketer for the MPPC as a location for technology research, development, demonstration and commercial operations; (2) establish partnerships with industry to develop applied technologies for commercialization; and, (3) manage and operate Centers of Excellence in the program areas of soil remediation, groundwater contamination, radioecology, and (municipal) solid waste minimization.

DATES: Due April 7, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Angela M. Sistrunk, Contract Specialist, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Contracts Management Division, P.O. Box A, Aiken, SC 29802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela M. Sistrunk, Contract Specialist, (803) 725-8123.