

public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Joanne Swanson/Herb White, 1325 East West Highway SSMC II Room 13202, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Weather Service (NWS) is undertaking an acquisition effort to replace the existing voice technology used for automation of the NOAA Weather Radio. The current text-to-speech voice technology has been found to be of questionable understandability and acceptability to the public, and new technology has emerged that can better serve the nation's interests in receipt of broadcast weather warnings, watches, and forecasts from NOAA Weather Radio. The NWS seeks to assess candidates for the voice replacement with the listening public and marine community prior to selecting and acquiring the new technology.

II. Method of Collection

It is intended that multiple focus groups will be formed and canvassed by playing the candidate voices speaking a variety of products and assessing the public reaction to each. In addition, some form of Web-based voluntary assessment and feedback may be offered, along with voice evaluation teams comprised of affected broadcast and public agencies.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business and other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; farms; Federal, State, Local, or Tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 800.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 hours for focus groups; 5 minutes for Web surveys.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 860.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 26, 2000

Madeleine Clayton,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-28156 File 11-1-00; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.102600D]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for a enhancement permit (1268) and issuance of permit (1259).

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: NMFS has received a permit application from The National Aquarium in Baltimore (1268) and NMFS has issued an incidental take permit to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) that authorizes incidental take of Endangered Species Act-listed sea turtles, incidental to the operation and

management of the large mesh gillnet fishery in southeastern Pamlico Sound, subject to certain conditions set forth therein (1259).

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 December 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on any of the new applications should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated. 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:

For permits 1268 & 1259: Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 301-713-1401.

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

Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
 Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
 Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
 Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
 Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Fish

Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).

New Applications Received

Application 1268: The applicant requests a 5-year permit to continue to maintain 1 adult shortnose sturgeon in captivity for enhancement purposes. The applicant currently possesses an adult shortnose sturgeon received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery at Bears Bluff, SC in February 1997, under scientific research permit 1986. Permit 986 will expire on December 31, 2000, and the permit holder does not wish to renew the enhancement aspects of his permit. As a direct result, the National Aquarium in Baltimore is applying for an individual permit to continue maintenance of this fish.

Permits Issued

Notice was published on August 3, 2000 (65 FR 47715), that an application had been filed by NCDMF for an incidental take permit. Permit 1259 was issued to NCDMF on October 5, 2000. Permit 1259 authorizes the incidental take of threatened loggerhead and green sea turtles and endangered Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, and leatherback sea turtles. NCDMF's covered activities include the management of the fall 2000 season of the large mesh gillnet fishery in a specified area in southeastern Pamlico Sound and the prosecution of that fishery by North Carolina fishermen in compliance with NCDMF's implementing regulations. The activities are described in NCDMF's June 21, 2000, permit application and conservation plan (plan) and the associated Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact, and the permit. Issuance of the permit was based on a finding that NCDMF had met the permit issuance criteria of 50 CFR 222.307(c). Permit 1259 was effective upon issuance and expires on December 16, 2000.

Dated: October 27, 2000.

Craig Johnson,

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

[FR Doc. 00-28155 Filed 11-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 101200C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 376-1520-01

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. James H.W. Hain, Holder/Principal Investigator, Associated Scientists of Woods Hole, Box 721, 3 Water Street, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543, has been issued an amendment to permit no. 376-1520 to take marine mammals 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 and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, (978/281-9250); and

Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-5312).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Simona Roberts or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 23, 1999, Notice was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 33470) that a request for a scientific research permit to take various cetacean species, harbor and grey seals, and sea turtles during aerial/vessel surveys, collect stomach contents and baleen, and conduct passive acoustic activities had been submitted by the above-named individual. A modified version of the permit request was issued on March 20, 2000 under 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 (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 222-227). The take of right whales, sea turtles, and stomach contents/baleen was not issued in the original permit.

This amendment now authorizes the permit holder to conduct aerial surveys and behavioral studies on right whales in the western North Atlantic Ocean from a blimp platform at a minimum altitude of 500 feet directly above and a minimum altitude of 350 feet slant range. The expiration date has also been extended to March 31, 2005.

Issuance of this amendment, 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: October 26, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,
 Office of Protected Resources, National
 Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-28157 Filed 11-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 051500C]

Guidelines for Economic Analysis of Fishery Management Actions

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Guidelines for Economic Analysis of Fishery Management Actions (Guidelines) provide guidance on meeting the procedural and analytical requirements of Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) for regulatory actions of federally managed fisheries. Specifically, the guidelines include a general framework for conducting economic analyses of regulatory actions; recommend that a preliminary regulatory economic evaluation be conducted early in the regulatory process to provide information on the impacts of proposed measures to the public and decision makers; outline the process for doing the regulatory impact