

liabilities associated with the production facilities of these companies were contributed to the newly formed companies in preparation for privatization.

With regard to Bolzano, the petitioners argue that the company's financial statements demonstrate the continuity in the company's business activities before and after its sale. In particular, the company's production of merchandise continued unimpeded during the period of ownership change. Therefore, the petitioners request, consistent with the methodology in the *AST Remand Redetermination*, that all non-recurring subsidies provided to Finsider/ILVA and Falck be attributed in full to CAS and Valbruna/Bolzano, respectively.

#### D. Programs

We are including in our investigation the following programs alleged in the petition to have provided countervailable subsidies to producers and exporters of the subject merchandise in Italy:

#### Government of Italy Subsidies

1. Capacity Reduction Payments under Law 193/1984
2. Law 796/76 Exchange Rate Guarantees
3. Article 33 of Law 227/77, Export Credit Financing Under Law 227/77, and Decree Law 143/98
4. Law 451/94 Early Retirement Benefits
5. Grants under Laws 46/82 and 706/85
6. Law 181/89 and Law 120/89
7. Law 488/92, Legislative Decree 96/93 and Circolare 38522
8. Law 341/95 and Circolare 50175/95
9. Law 675/77
10. Export Marketing Grants under Law 394/81
11. Law 10/91
12. Law 481/94 "Law on Dismantling of the Private-Sector Steel Industry"
13. Law 549/95

#### Government of Bolzano Subsidies

14. Bolzano Law 25/81 Articles 13 through 15

#### Government of Valle d' Aosta Subsidies

15. Valle d' Aosta Law 64/92
16. Valle d' Aosta Law 12/87

#### European Union Subsidies

17. ECSC Article 54 Loans
18. European Social Fund
19. ECSC Article 56 Conversion Loans, Interest Rebates and Restructuring Grants
20. European Regional Development Fund

21. Commission Decision 88/588 and Resider II

Company Specific Subsidies Conferred by the Government of Italy

22. Restructuring Subsidies Provided to CAS

A. Equity Infusions to Finsider and ILVA

B. Pre-Privatization Assistance and Debt Forgiveness

Company Specific Subsidies Conferred by the Government of Bolzano

23. Purchase and Leaseback of Bolzano Industrial Site

A. Lease of Bolzano Industrial Site to Valbruna

B. Lease Exemption under Valbruna/Bolzano Lease

C. Environmental and Research and Development Assistance to Bolzano

Company Specific Subsidies Conferred by the Government of Valle d' Aosta

24. Assistance Associated with Sale of CAS

A. Lease of Cogne Industrial Site

B. Provision of Electricity

C. Waste Plant

D. Loans to CAS to Transfer its Property

#### *Distribution of Copies of the Petition*

In accordance with section 702(b)(4)(A)(i) of the Act, a copy of the public version of the petition have been provided to the GOI and the EC. We will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the petition to each exporter named in the petition, as provided for under § 351.203(c)(2) of the Department's regulations.

#### *ITC Notification*

We have notified the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 702(d) of the Act.

#### *Preliminary Determination by the ITC*

The ITC will determine no later than February 12, 2001, whether there is a reasonable indication that import of stainless steel bar from Italy is causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury to, a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, the investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: January 17, 2001.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. 01-2203 Filed 1-24-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012201B]

### Fishing Vessel Capital Construction Fund Agreement, Application, and Certificate of Construction/ Reconstruction

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

**ACTION:** Proposed information collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general 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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before March 26, 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 Charles L. Cooper, Financial Services Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-2396.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **I. Abstract**

Respondents will be commercial fishing industry individuals, partnerships, and corporations that want to enter into Capital Construction Fund agreements with the Secretary of Commerce. Such agreements allow deferral of Federal taxation on fishing vessel income deposited into a fund for the respondent for use in the acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of a fishing vessel. Deferred taxes are recaptured by reducing an agreement vessel's basis for depreciation by the amount withdrawn from the fund for its acquisition, construction, or reconstruction. The information collected from agreement holders is used to determine their eligibility to participate in the Capital Construction Fund Program pursuant to

50 CFR part 259. At the completion of the construction/reconstruction, a certificate to that effect must be submitted.

## II. Method of Collection

The information will be collected on forms: the Fishing Vessel Capital Construction Fund Application, the Interim Capital Construction Fund Agreement, and the Certificate of Construction/Reconstruction.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0090.

*Form Number:* NOAA Form 88-14.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business and other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 3.5 hours for an agreement, 1 hour for a certificate.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,250.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$1,000.

## 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: January 19, 2001.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-2319 Filed 1-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011901B]

### 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 1275 and 1276.

**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 scientific research permit application from Mr. Joseph Hightower, of North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (NCCFWRU) (1275) and from Mr. Jay Holder, of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) (1276).

**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 February 26, 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:

For permits 1275, 1276: Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (ph: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376).

**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 and evolutionarily significant units (ESU's) are covered in this notice:

#### Fish

Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)

### New Applications Received

**Application 1275:** The applicant proposes to conduct a two year survey of the Nuese River to prepare a baseline study of the possible existence of shortnose sturgeon in the river. The research will use the NMFS sampling protocols for determining presence or absence of shortnose sturgeon in a selected river. The goals of the study are to determine whether shortnose sturgeon are present within the Nuese River system, and to determine if suitable shortnose sturgeon habitat is available within the river system.

**Application 1276:** The applicants propose to conduct an absence/presence study for shortnose sturgeon in the St. John River, Florida. Shortnose sturgeon were last reported in the system in the 1970s and 1980s. The primary objective of the study is to determine the existing population level of shortnose sturgeon within the river system. The applicant will use the NMFS approved sampling protocols for a presence/absence study. Obtaining an estimate of shortnose sturgeon numbers will allow resource partners to implement the secondary objective whereby other recovery plan strategies for the species can proceed.