

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****[I.D. 041202D]****Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Oversight Committee will hold a working meeting, which is open to the public, on the draft Groundfish Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS).

DATES: The EIS Oversight Committee working meeting will begin Wednesday, May 8, 2002 at 1 p.m. and may go into the evening until business for the day is completed. The meeting will reconvene from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in the West Conference Room at the Pacific Fishery Management Council office, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John DeVore, Groundfish Fishery Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the EIS Oversight Committee meeting is to develop the range of alternatives that will be evaluated in the PSEIS. The committee will review draft sections of the PSEIS, provide comments to the drafters, and prepare recommendations to the Council regarding the programmatic alternatives for consideration at the upcoming June Council meeting.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the EIS Oversight Committee agenda may come before the EIS Oversight Committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal committee action during this meeting. EIS Oversight Committee action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice, and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Committee's

intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 13, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 02-9521 Filed 4-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****[I.D. 040902F]****Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Crustaceans Plan Team (CPT) members will hold a meeting.

DATES: The CPT meeting will be held on May 2, 2002, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CPT will discuss and may make recommendations to the Council on the following agenda items:

1. Review of the 112th Council Meeting;
2. State of crustacean fisheries in region;
3. Lobster modeling workshop report;
4. Long term research planning;
5. Cooperative research program;
6. Reserve operations plan and sanctuary designation process;
7. Economic value of Crustacean Area 1 permits; and
8. Other business as required.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will

be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: April 13, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 02-9522 Filed 4-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****[I.D. 041002A]****Endangered Species; Permits**

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

ACTION: NMFS has issued modification #3 to Permit 1178 and modification #1 to Permit 1295.

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 issued modification #3 to Permit 1178 to Mr. Harold Foster, of NMFS-NEFSC and modification #1 to permit 1295 to Dr. Richard Merrick, of NMFS-NEFSC-PSB.

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).

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species:

Sea turtles

Threatened and endangered Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Endangered Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

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

Endangered Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Threatened Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Permit # 1178

Notice was published on October 26, 2001 (63 FR 49335), that Mr. Harold Foster, of NMFS-NEFSC applied for a modification to 1178. Modification #3 authorizes the import and export of sea turtle pieces and parts for the purpose of research. The applicant has a 5-year scientific research permit to take listed sea turtles incidentally taken in foreign and domestic commercial fisheries operating in state waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. The work will be conducted by scientific observers aboard commercial fishing vessels. The following species and annual take numbers have been requested: 300 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), 85 leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), 10 Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*), 10 hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and 10 green (*Chelonia mydas*) turtles. The applicant has requested authorization to measure, photograph, flipper tag, scan for PIT tags, resuscitate (if necessary) and release turtles taken incidentally in foreign and domestic commercial fisheries. Further, the applicant has requested authority to bring to shore, when feasible, dead sea turtles for necropsy. Necropsy will only be performed by personnel currently permitted to conduct such research. This research supports the National Marine Fisheries Service's mission of assessing the impacts of commercial fisheries on marine resources of interest to the United States. Modification #3 to Permit 1178 was issued on March 25, 2002, authorizing take of listed species. Permit 1178 expires December 31, 2003.

Permit # 1295

Notice was published on October 26, 2001 (66 FR 54233), that Dr. Richard Merrick, of NMFS-NEFSC-PSB applied for a modification to 1295. Modification #1 authorizes the import and export of sea turtle pieces and parts for the purpose of research. The goal of the 5-year plan for sea turtles in the Northeast is to work cooperatively with other regions to support and direct research on sea turtles in order to identify and assess the status of sea turtle stocks, reduce the estimated mortality associated with fishing activities and other anthropogenic and natural sources and to recover ESA listed species. Modification #1 to Permit 1295 was issued on March 28, 2002, authorizing take of listed species. Permit 1295 expires May 31, 2006.

Dated: April 12, 2002.

Ann Terbush

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

[FR Doc. 02–9523 Filed 4–17–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041002B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a research permit (1375).

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 research permit from Dr. Thomas J. Kwak, of U. S. Geological Survey - North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (USGS).

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 May 20, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the new application should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the

application. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. The application and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301–713–2289, fax: 301–713–0376).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lillian Becker, Silver Spring, MD (phone: 301–713–2319, fax: 301–713–0376, e-mail: Lillian.Becker@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:

Fish

Endangered Shortnose Sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)

Application 1375

The applicant proposes to place 600 caged shortnose sturgeon into the Roanoke/Albemarle river system at 10 test sites that represent variations in water quality to investigate growth, survival and bioaccumulation of contaminants by the fish. They will be