

Dated: September 17, 2012.

David Long,

Director, Office of Service Industries.

[FR Doc. 2012-23445 Filed 9-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC252

Endangered Species; File No. 17316

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that George Burgess, Ph.D., Florida Museum of Natural History, Dickinson Hall, University of Gainesville, Gainesville, FL, 32611, has applied in due form for a permit to take smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before October 24, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting Records Open for Public Comment from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 17316 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, NMFS,
1315 East-West Highway, Room
13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910;
phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th
Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL
33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax
(727) 824-5309.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division

- By email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov (include the File No. in the subject line of the email),
- By facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or
- At the address listed above.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Colette Cairns or Jennifer Skidmore,
(301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested 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 222-226).

The applicant proposes to gather life history information on smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) populations of Florida, primarily in Florida Bay and the upper Keys area. The purpose of the research is to investigate the movements and habitat use of smalltooth sawfish in Florida waters. Annually, up to 80 sawfish would be captured by gillnet, longline, or angling gear, measured, passive integrated transponder, roto, dart, and external satellite tagged, tissue, muscle, and blood sampled, and released. Dead sawfish acquired through strandings or from law enforcement confiscations would be sampled for scientific purposes. The permit is requested for a duration of 5 years.

Dated: September 18, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-23491 Filed 9-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC253

Endangered Species; File No. 16733

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC; Responsible Party: Bonnie Ponwith), 75 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami, FL 33149, has applied in due form for a permit to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and olive ridley (*L. olivacea*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before October 24, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 16733 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, NMFS,
1315 East-West Highway, Room
13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910;
phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376;

Northeast Region, NMFS, 55 Great
Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA
01930; phone (978) 281-9328; fax
(978) 281-9394; and
Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th
Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL
33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax
(727) 824-5309.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division

- By email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov (include the File No. in the subject line of the email),

- By facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or
- At the address listed above.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Amy Hapeman or Colette Cairns, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested 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 222-226).

The SEFSC requests a five-year permit to conduct research on leatherback, loggerhead, green, hawksbill, olive ridley, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles in the North Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and their embayments to improve stock assessments, fill data gaps, assess the impact of anthropogenic activities, and better manage and, ultimately, recover these species. The SEFSC requests to take 915 loggerheads, 560 greens, 455 Kemp's ridleys, 65 hawksbills, 60 leatherbacks, 10 olive ridleys, and 24 unidentified/hybrid hardshells annually

for measurements, laboratory experiments, biological sampling, temporary marking, tracking, ultrasound, and/or attachment of transmitters before being released back to the wild. Turtles would be directly captured in water by hand or using nets or would be obtained from other legal sources. A minor number of mortalities is requested annually for turtles that could accidentally die during research. In addition, the SEFSC would observe 2,620 loggerheads, 565 greens, 615 Kemp's ridleys, 287 hawksbills, 665 leatherbacks, 37 olive ridleys, and 2,170 unidentified hardshells annually during aerial, vessel, and acoustic surveys.

Dated: September 19, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-23492 Filed 9-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC138

Western Pacific Fisheries; Approval of a Marine Conservation Plan for American Samoa

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

ACTION: Notice of agency decision.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces approval of a marine conservation plan for American Samoa.

DATES: This agency decision is effective from August 11, 2012, through August 10, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the marine conservation plan, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2012-0155, are available from www.regulations.gov, or the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813, tel 808-522-8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jarad Makaiau, Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, 808-944-2108.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 204(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and in consultation with the Council, to negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement

(PIAFA). A PIAFA would allow foreign fishing within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) adjacent to American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands with the concurrence of, and in consultation with, the Governor of the Pacific Insular Area to which the PIAFA applies. Before entering into a PIAFA, the appropriate Governor, with the concurrence of the Council, must develop a 3-year Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) providing details on uses for any funds collected by the Secretary under the PIAFA.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires payments received under a PIAFA to be deposited into the United States Treasury and then covered over to the Treasury of the Pacific Insular Area for which funds were collected. In the case of violations by foreign fishing vessels occurring within the EEZ off any Pacific Insular Area, amounts received by the Secretary attributable to fines and penalties imposed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including sums collected from the forfeiture and disposition or sale of property seized subject to its authority, shall be deposited into the Treasury of the Pacific Insular Area adjacent to the EEZ in which the violation occurred, after direct costs of the enforcement action are subtracted. Any funds deposited into the Treasury of the Pacific Insular Area may be used by the jurisdiction for fisheries enforcement and for implementation of an MCP.

An MCP must be consistent with the Council's fishery ecosystem plans, must identify conservation and management objectives (including criteria for determining when such objectives have been met), and must prioritize planned marine conservation projects. Although no foreign fishing is being considered at this time, the Council, at its 154th meeting held June 26-28, 2012, reviewed and approved the American Samoa MCP and recommended its submission to the Secretary for approval. On July 12, 2011, the Lt. Governor of American Samoa submitted the MCP to NMFS, the designee of the Secretary, for review and approval.

The MCP contains seven conservation and management objectives under which 48 planned projects and activities designed to meet the objective are identified and described, as follows:

Objective 1. The people of American Samoa enjoy the highest level of social and economic benefits through sustainable fisheries development of fishery resources. Projects to support this objective include:

1. Development of a new multi-platform fishing vessel design to replace the alia;
 2. Boat building and fishing vessel construction training;
 3. Fishermen training programs;
 4. Fishermen financial lending programs;
 5. Manua Islands fishing vessel acquisition project;
 6. Construction of new dock and landing space for commercial vessels;
 7. Construction of cold storage and fish processing facility;
 8. Purchase of ice making equipment;
 9. Development of fish marketing plan;
 10. Training for fish handling procedures and development of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point plans;
 11. Support the organization of American Samoa fishermen's cooperatives;
 12. Technology and safety upgrades for the American Samoa bottomfish fleet;
 13. Promoting American Samoa as a premier sport fishing destination by holding annual sport fishing tournaments;
 14. Enhancing fishing opportunities by deploying fish aggregation devices (FAD) dedicated to small non-longline pelagic fishing vessels;
 15. Deepwater bathymetric surveys to support FAD deployment location in Tutuila and Manua; and
 16. Development of brood stocks of giant clam and sea urchins for population restoration and enhancement.
- Objective 2.* Support quality research and obtain the most complete scientific information available to assess and manage fisheries. Projects to support this objective include:
17. Understanding movement patterns of target species in no-take marine protected areas;
 18. Understanding local-scale current patterns around Tutuila;
 19. Improving data collection and analysis in Ofu, Olosega, and Tau;
 20. Determining genetic connectivity of coral reef ecosystems in the Samoa archipelago;
 21. Surveying fish spawning aggregations in American Samoa;
 22. Developing size limits to manage fish stocks in American Samoa;
 23. Estimating spawning period by conducting juvenile abundance surveys in Pala lagoon;
 24. Assessing the health and quality of juvenile reef fish habitat;
 25. Assessing the health and quality of mangrove habitat in Nu'uuli and Leone; and
 26. Enhancing fisheries GIS capacity.