

application and reporting requirements will differ depending upon the funding instrument selected. Projects receiving funds under this program will have to meet applicable NOAA/Department of Commerce/Federal policies, requirements, and laws.

Administrative Procedure Act

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act, (5 U.S.C. sec. 553), because these are agency guidelines. Because NMFS was interested in receiving comments on modifications to the Program that would allow greater flexibility to support community-based habitat restoration projects, NMFS solicited comments in the notice that was published in the **Federal Register** on October 1, 1999. This notice responds to those comments, and announces the final guidelines for the Program.

Statutory Authority

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C. 661-667; Joint Project Authority, 15 U.S.C. 1525; and the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535.

Dated: March 27, 2000.

Penelope D. Dalton,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-7919 Filed 3-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032200B]

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 (1247); issuance of modifications to existing permits (1051, 1189).

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 Mr. Tom Savoy, of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) (1247); and NMFS has issued modifications to scientific research permits to Mr. Jorgen Skjeveland, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (JS-FWS) (1051) and Dr. James Kirk, of the Corps

of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station (COE-WES) (1189).

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on the new application must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5:00pm eastern standard time on May 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the new application should be sent to the Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments may also be sent via fax to 301-713-0376. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet. The application and related documents are available for review by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (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 the application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on the application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing(s) 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 is covered in this notice: shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).

New Application Received

CTDEP (1247) has requested a 5-year permit for annual lethal takes of up to 300 shortnose sturgeon spawned eggs and larvae; annually capture, examine, collect stomach contents samples via gastric lavage, PIT tag, and release up to 400 adult and 100 juvenile sturgeon; and implant sonic tags in up to 25 adult sturgeon annually. The research proposes to determine general seasonal movements and fine scale diurnal movement patterns as well as food habits and prey preferences of shortnose sturgeon in the Connecticut River below Holyoke Dam.

Permit Modifications Issued

Notice was published on October 22, 1999 (64 FR 57069), that JS-FWS had applied for a modification to permit 1051. Modification #2 to permit 1051 was issued on March 21, 2000, and authorizes the deployment of an additional 15 sonic tags on 15 of the shortnose sturgeon captured from the Delaware River, and to change the tagging methodology from external to completely internal. The purpose of the sonic tagging is to determine if there is migration back and forth via the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The sturgeon will be measured, tagged, have tissues sampled and released. Modification #2 to Permit 1051 is valid for the duration of the permit, which expires May 31, 2002.

Modification #1 to Permit 1189 was issued to COE-WES on March 21, 2000, and authorizes the addition of baited trotlines as a sampling method for shortnose sturgeon, thus increasing the effectiveness of seasonal sampling. Modification #1 to Permit 1189 is valid for the duration of the permit, which expires December 31, 2002.

Dated: March 23, 2000.

Wanda L. Cain,

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

[FR Doc. 00-7924 Filed 3-29-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032000A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 895-1450-00

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Rachel Cartwright, P.O. Box 1317, Lahaina, Hawaii 96767, has requested an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 895-1450-00.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before May 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request 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, Alaska Region, NMFS, 709 W 9th Street, Federal Building, Room 461, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (907-586-7235); and

Protected Species Program Manager, Pacific Islands Area Office, NMFS, NOAA, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700 (808/973-2935).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak or Trevor Spradlin, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 895-1450-00, issued on December 23, 1998 (64 FR 862) is requested under the 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 (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). Permit No. 895-1450-00 authorizes the permit holder to harass annually up to 1,100 humpback whales

(*Megaptera novaeangliae*), including mother/calf pairs, during the conduct of scientific research on the whales in Hawaii waters. The purpose of the research is to study North Pacific humpback whale calf behavior and development. Research activities involve photo-identification and observation of the whales' surface and underwater behaviors. Activities are carried out between January and April, in the waters around the main Hawaiian Islands. The applicant is now requesting authorization to extend the study to Alaska waters. Extending the study to Alaska waters would allow documentation of the whole first year of the life of the humpback whale calf, incorporating the entire period of the calf's known association with the mother. The applicant is not requesting an increase in the number of animals authorized to be harassed under the Permit. The applicant proposes to initiate work in Alaska in early June 2000.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: March 24, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 00-7923 Filed 3-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Invention Promoters/Promotion Firms Complaints

ACTION: Proposed Collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DOC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the continuing and proposed information collection, 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 May 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Richard J. Apley, Director, Office of Independent Inventor Programs, Crystal Park 2, Suite 906, Washington, DC 20231. In addition, written comments may be sent via e-mail to richard.apley@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Inventors' Rights Act of 1999 requires the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) to publish complaints filed by independent inventors against invention promoters/promotion firms and publish any replies to such complaints. The Inventors' Rights Act requires the PTO to publish these complaints and replies, but it does not require the PTO to enforce the Act, to investigate the complaints, or to participate in any legal proceedings against the invention promoters/promotion firms. The PTO will accept complaints filed against invention promoters/promotion firms and forward those complaints to the invention promoters/promotion firms for response. Both the complaints and the responses will be published so that they will be publicly available as required by the Act. The primary purpose of this collection is to make complaints and responses publicly available; the PTO will not accept complaints submitted under this system if the complainant requests confidentiality. The PTO has developed a form for the purpose of lodging a complaint against a promotion invention firm; however, use of the form is not mandatory as long as the complaint is clearly marked as a complaint filed under the Inventors' Rights Act or the PTO's rules implementing this Act.

II. Method of Collection

By mail, facsimile, or hand carry when an individual is required to participate in the information collection.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651-0044.

Agency Form Number(s): PTO/SB/XX.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.