

Dated: May 23, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 03-13555 Filed 5-29-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052003A]

Endangered Species; File No. 1352

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Colin Simpfendorfer, Mote Marine Laboratory, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, Florida 34236 has been issued a permit to take smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) 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, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Jefferies or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 25, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 53983) that a request for a scientific research permit to take smalltooth sawfish had been submitted by Dr. Colin Simpfendorfer, Mote Marine Laboratory. The requested permit has been issued 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 parts 222-226).

Dr. Simpfendorfer is authorized to take endangered smalltooth sawfish by capture using longline, rod and reel, set lines, gillnets, and beach seines; tagging with rototags, plastic headed dart tags, PIT tags, acoustic tags, PAT tags, and SPOT tags; and the collecting of tissue biopsies. This is to take place on the

coast of central and southern Florida over 5 years. The purpose of the proposed research is to compile data on biology, distribution, and abundance of smalltooth sawfish through tracking and genetic sampling in order to facilitate the recovery of the species.

Issuance of this permit, 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: May 23, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Coastal Engineering Research Board

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following committee meeting:

Name of Committee: Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB).

Date of Meeting: June 16-18, 2003.

Place: The Hilton, Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Time: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (June 16, 2002); 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (June 17, 2002); 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (June 18, 2003).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquiries and notice of intent to attend the meeting may be addressed to Thomas W. Richardson, Acting Executive Secretary, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Waterways Experiment Station, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Agenda: The theme of the meeting is "Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration." On Monday, June 16, members of the Board will tour the Louisiana Coastal area via helicopter. On Tuesday, June 17, presentations will be made pertaining to the theme. The presentations include:

"Coastal Engineering Priorities from the Louisiana Governor's Office Perspective," "Overview of the Louisiana Comprehensive Coast-wide Ecosystem Restoration Study," "Coastal Engineering Research Needs—The State Perspective," Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Study Hydrodynamic and Ecological Modeling," Technology Needs: Lessons Learned from Feasibility Study and Process for Identifying Future Needs," "Coastal Engineering Needs for the Louisiana Coastal Zone," National Technical Review Committee Research Needs," "Science Needs in Coastal Louisiana," and "LCA-Related Coastal Engineering Research Needs at the Macro Scale." On Wednesday, June 18, the Board will meet in an Executive Session.

These meetings are open to the public; participation by the public is scheduled for 4 p.m. on June 17.

The entire meeting is open to the public, but since seating capacity of the meeting room is limited, advance notice of intent to attend, although not required, is requested in order to assure adequate arrangements. Oral participation by public attendees is encouraged during the time scheduled on the agenda; written statements may be submitted prior to the meeting or up to 30 days after the meeting.

Thomas W. Richardson,

Director, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, Acting Executive Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Estuary Habitat Restoration Council Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 105(h) of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, (Title I, Pub. L. 106-457), announcement is made of the forthcoming meeting of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be in room 107-A of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Whitten Building located on Jefferson Drive between 12th and 14th Streets, SW., Washington, DC.