

planned exploration and development of existing oil fields.

III. Scenario for the Mission

Timetable

Sunday, December 5—Arrive in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Monday, December 6—Market Briefing and Trade Mission Meetings
 Tuesday, December 7—Trade Mission Meetings
 Wednesday, December 8—Arrive in Singapore Market Briefing and Meetings at OSEA 2004
 Thursday, December 9—Trade Mission Meetings at OSEA 2004
 Friday, December 10—Trade Mission Meetings at OSEA 2004
 Saturday, December 11—Free
 Sunday, December 12—Arrive Hanoi, Vietnam
 Monday, December 13—Market Briefing and Trade Mission Meetings
 Tuesday, December 14—Trade Mission Meetings Conclusion of Trade Mission

V. Criteria for Participant Selection

- Relevance of the company's business line to mission goals;
- Potential for business in the selected markets;
- Timeless of the company's completed application and payment of the mission participation fee;
- Provision of adequate information on the company's products and/or services and communication of the company's primary objectives to facilitate appropriate matching with potential business partners;
- Certification that the company meets Departmental guidelines for participation, including certification that the company's products and/or services are manufactured or produced in the United States or if manufactured/produced and/or services are manufactured or produced in the United States or if manufactured/produced outside of the United States, the product/service must be marketed under the name of the U.S. firm and have U.S. content of at least fifty-one percent of the value of the finished good or service.

The mission will be promoted through the following venues: U.S. Export Assistance Centers and Teams; the **Federal Register**; relevant trade publications; relevant trade associations; post Commerce trade mission participants; various in-house and purchased industry lists; and the Commerce Department trade missions calendar—<http://www.ita.doc.gov/doctm/tmcal.html>—and other Internet Web sites.

Any partisan political activities of an applicant, including political

contributions, will be entirely irrelevant to the selection process. The participation fee will be \$3,500 for the trade mission. Participation fees do not include the cost of travel and lodging. Participation is open to the first 10 qualified U.S. companies. Recruitment will begin immediately and will close on Friday, October 29, 2004. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

Contact Information: Matthew H. Wright, International Trade Specialist, Global Trade Programs, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 2012, Washington, DC 20230, tel: 202-482-2567/fax: 202-482-0178, e-mail: Matthew.Wright@mail.doc.gov.

Dated: August 26, 2004.

Donald Businger,

Director, Office of Trade Event Programs.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092104D]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notification of a proposal for EFPs to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the subject Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The Assistant Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue the EFP. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Assistant Regional Administrator proposes to recommend that an EFP be issued that would allow commercial fishing vessels to conduct fishing

operations that are otherwise restricted by the regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The EFP would allow for an exemption from the FMP as follows: Groundfish Closed Area I. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments on this document must be received on or before October 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this notice may be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is DA640@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: "Comments on URI Bycatch Reduction Study." Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on URI Bycatch Reduction Study." Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Hooker, Fishery Policy Analyst, phone 978-281-9220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The University of Rhode Island, Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science (URI) submitted an initial application for an EFP on July 19, 2004. The experimental fishing application requests authorization for activities to conduct a bycatch reduction study of cod in the haddock bottom trawl fishery. The purpose of the study is to determine if the experimental trawl gear would achieve a reduction in cod bycatch significant enough to warrant consideration as a Special Access Program (SAP) under provisions in Amendment 13 to the FMP.

The proposed research would utilize three commercial fishing vessels to conduct a bycatch reduction study in the directed haddock bottom trawl fishery from November 2004 through November 2005, using side-by-side tows to compare the control net with one experimental large-mesh net. The control net would be a standard net with a 6-inch (15.24-cm) mesh body, and 8-inch (20.32-cm) mesh wings and jibs. The experimental net would utilize a graduated netting starting with 8-ft (2.44-m) mesh and ending in the standard 6-inch (15.24-cm) mesh. The mesh size in both nets is equal to or greater than the required minimum mesh size. The experiment would

incorporate four fishing trips, each five days in duration. There would be four to six, 1.5-hour tows per day per vessel.

This experiment hopes to demonstrate that Closed Area I is able to support a targeted haddock fishery with only minimal bycatch of cod using the experimental net. Therefore, the applicant requested that this project occur in the groundfish closure area for the purposes of determining if a SAP could be established there. It is anticipated that this project would retain the following species: Haddock—300,000 lb (136,077 kg); winter flounder—40,000 lb (18,144 kg); yellowtail flounder—25,000 lb (11,340 kg); cod—30,000 lb (13,608 kg); witch flounder—25,000 lb (11,340 kg); American plaice—25,000 lb (11,340 kg). The anticipated discards from the project are: Cod—5,000 lb (2,268 kg); and skate—80,000 lb (36,287 kg). All catch retained would comply with the minimum fish sizes and possession limits established by the FMP.

Additionally, once the project reaches the estimated total catch (landings and discards) of cod, i.e., 35,000 lb (15,876 kg), the project would be terminated. Catch would be monitored on a trip-by-trip basis. The proceeds from the sale of the catch would be retained by the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation to be used for further research projects. Access to Closed Area I would not include access to the Closed Area I North Habitat Closure Area nor the South Habitat Closure Area, since mobile gear is restricted from these areas in consideration of essential fish habitat. This project would not be exempt from the days-at-sea (DAS) effort control measures. If the researchers desire to enter the Western U.S./Canada Area they would be subject to regulations, including quota and possession limits, governing that area at that time.

This EFP would allow for an exemption from the FMP as follows: Groundfish Closed Area I, as specified in 50 CFR 648.81(a).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 22, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. E4-2388 Filed 9-24-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092004C]

Endangered Species; File No. 1446

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC, has been issued a permit to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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: Carrie Hubard or Patrick Opay, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 3, 2003 notice was published in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 52387) that a request for a scientific research permit to take loggerhead, green, hawksbill, Kemp's ridley, and leatherback sea turtles had been submitted by the above-named organization. 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).

Researchers will capture sea turtles using two different kinds of gillnets. Captured turtles will be identified to species, measured, photographed, and flipper and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagged. The primary objective of the research is to identify gillnet types that will reduce the number of sea turtle interactions, while maintaining targeted catch of the commercial fishery. One modified gillnet design will be evaluated during

this study with a traditional flounder gillnet used as a control. Of the captured turtles, nine of the Kemp's/loggerhead/green turtle aggregate, one hawksbill and one leatherback may be mortalities. This technology may prove transferable to other fisheries within North Carolina and the east coast. NMFS proposes to authorize these activities until December 31, 2004.

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 and threatened species which are the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: September 21, 2004.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

[FR Doc. 04-21598 Filed 9-24-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Scientific Advisory Board

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

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

Name of Committee: Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Dates of Meeting: October 28-29, 2004.

Place: The Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, 14th St. & Alaska Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20306-6000.

Time: 8:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m. (October 28, 2004). 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (October 29, 2004).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ridgely Rabold, Office of the Principal Deputy Director (PDD), AFIP, Building 54, Washington, DC 20306-6000, phone (202) 782-2553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

General function of the board: The SAB provides scientific and professional advice and guidance on programs, policies and procedures of the AFIP.

Agenda: The Board will hear status reports from the AFIP Director, Principal Deputy Director, and each of the pathology sub-specialty departments, which the Board members will visit during the meeting.