

researchers, educators, policy makers, and other various groups that help to focus efforts and attention on the central California coastal and marine ecosystems.

The Advisory Council functions in an advisory capacity to the Sanctuary Superintendent and is instrumental in helping develop policies, program goals, and identify education, outreach, research, long-term monitoring, resource protection, and revenue enhancement priorities. The Advisory Council works in concert with the Sanctuary Superintendent by keeping him or her informed about issues of concern throughout the Sanctuary, offering recommendations on specific issues, and aiding the Superintendent in achieving the goals of the Sanctuary program within the context of California's marine programs and policies.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431, *et seq.*

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: January 5, 2007.

Daniel J. Basta,

Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 07-114 Filed 1-12-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.010807E]

Endangered Species; File No. 1595

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Michael Hastings, University of Maine, 5717 Corbett Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469, has applied in due form for a permit to take shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before February 15, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The application 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)427-2521; and

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9300; fax (978)281-9394.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education 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 request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1595.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brandy Hutnak or Malcolm Mohead, (301)713-2289.

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).

Michael Hastings seeks permission to conduct research on shortnose sturgeon in the Penobscot River System, Maine, over a period of five years. The purpose of the research is to assess the distribution, movements, and abundance of shortnose sturgeon in the river system. Up to 300 shortnose sturgeon would be captured annually by gill and trammel nets; anesthetized; measured; weighed; sexed; photographed; fin clipped; scanned for tags; Carlin tagged; PIT tagged; allowed to recover; and released. A subset of 30 pre-spawned fish would have external transmitters attached, in addition to a subset of 30 post-spawned, non-spawning, or immature fish that would be surgically implanted with transmitters. Unintentional mortality is requested for up to 12 shortnose sturgeon and 4 Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) annually.

Dated: January 8, 2007.

Tammy C. Adams,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E7-365 Filed 1-12-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[ID. 010807D]

Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Notice of Availability of Observer Coverage Plan and Notice of Sablefish At-Sea Processing Prohibition Exemption

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of an updated Observer Coverage Plan for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and an exemption to the at-sea processing prohibition for sablefish.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces availability of the updated Observer Coverage Plan for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery pursuant to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). NMFS also announces the receipt of applications for, and the issuance of, an exemption to the prohibition of at-sea processing for sablefish caught during the primary sablefish fishery, a prohibition implemented as part of Amendment 14 to the FMP.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information on the Observer Coverage Plan, contact Jonathan Cusick (Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS), phone: 360-332-2793 and e-mail: jonathan.cusick@noaa.gov. For more information on vessel exemptions to the prohibition of at-sea processing for sablefish, contact Kevin Ford (Northwest Region, NMFS), phone: 206-526-6115; fax: 206-526-6736 and e-mail: kevin.ford@noaa.gov.

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is also accessible via the internet at the website of the Office of the **Federal Register**: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. The updated Observer Coverage Plan is posted online at: <http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/fram/observer/index.cfm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FMP at Section 6.4.1.1 states: "The Regional Administrator will implement an