

Dated: February 16, 2007.

James P. Burgess,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021607I]

Endangered Species; File No. 1547-01

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

ACTION: Notice; application for permit modification; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Kathryn Hattala, Principal Investigator), 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561, has applied in due form for a permit modification to take shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before March 26, 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)281-9328; fax (978)281-9394.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this modification 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 permit modification 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 to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail

comment the following document identifier: "File No. 1547-01."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Malcolm Mohead or Brandy Hutnak, (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 parts 222-226).

Currently, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is authorized in Permit No. 1547 to conduct scientific research to evaluate seasonal movement of shortnose sturgeon in Haverstraw and Newburgh Bays of the Hudson River. A maximum of 500 adult and juvenile shortnose sturgeon can be captured with gill nets, measured, weighed, scanned for tags, PIT and Carlin tagged (if untagged), and released annually. The applicant now proposes to collect soft fin-ray tissue samples from all captured shortnose sturgeon. The goal of the additional research would be to document and map the genetic identity of shortnose sturgeon in the Hudson River. The modification would run concurrently with the original permit until October 31, 2011.

Dated: February 16, 2007.

P. Michael Payne,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Public Hearings for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Introduction of F/A-18 E/F (Super Hornet) Aircraft to the East Coast of the United States (Construction and Operation of an Outlying Landing Field)

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy (DON) has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a DSEIS to provide additional analysis of the potential environmental consequences associated with the construction and operation of an Outlying Landing Field (OLF) to support Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) operations of F/A-18 E/F (Super

Hornet) squadrons stationed at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana, VA and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, NC. The analysis supplements the evaluation presented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the Introduction of F/A-18 E/F (Super Hornet) Aircraft to the East Coast of the United States, which was released to the public in July 2003, and is not to be considered independent of the Final EIS. Public hearings will be held to provide information and receive oral and written comments on the DSEIS. Federal, state, and local agencies, and interested individuals are invited to be present or represented at hearings.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Six public hearings will be held. Each scheduled public hearing will be preceded by an open information session to allow interested individuals to review information presented in the DSEIS. DON representatives will be available during the information session to provide clarification as necessary related to the DSEIS. Each information session will occur from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by the formal public hearing from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Public hearings have been scheduled at the following dates and locations:

Monday, March 19, 2007, Mattamuskeet Elementary School, 60 Juniper Bay Road, Swan Quarter, NC.

Tuesday, March 20, 2007, Bertie High School, 715 U.S. Highway 13 North, Windsor, NC.

Wednesday, March 21, 2007, Perquimans County High School, 305 Edenton Road, Hertford, NC.

Thursday, March 22, 2007, Craven County Community College, Orringer Hall, 800 College Court, New Bern, NC.

Tuesday, April 3, 2007, Beaufort Community College, 5337 U.S. Highway 264 East, Washington, NC.

Wednesday, April 4, 2007, Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center, North Carolina State University, 207 Research Station Road, Plymouth, NC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic, OLF SEIS PM, Code EV2, 6506 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA, facsimile 757-322-4894.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DON has prepared and filed with the EPA the DSEIS for the Introduction of F/A-18 E/F (Super Hornet) Aircraft to the East Coast of the United States (Construction and Operation of an Outlying Landing Field) in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Sections 4321-4345)