

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received an application for an incidental take permit (Permit) from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). As required by the ESA, NCDMF's application includes a conservation plan designed to minimize and mitigate any such take of endangered or threatened species. The Permit application is for the incidental take of ESA-listed adult and juvenile sea turtles associated with commercial shrimp trawling without the use of a turtle excluder device (TED) off the coast of North Carolina from Browns Inlet to Rich Inlet due to high concentrations of algae which clog shrimp trawls and TEDs. The duration of the proposed Permit is for 5 years. NMFS is furnishing this notice in order to allow other agencies and the public an opportunity to review and comment on this document. All comments received will become part of the public record and will be available for review.

**DATES:** Written comments from interested parties on the Permit application and Plan must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Eastern daylight time on April 23, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on this action should be addressed to David Cottingham, Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910; or by fax (301) 427-2522, or by e-mail at: [nmfs.itp.1603@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.itp.1603@noaa.gov). The application is available for download and review at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/esa\\_review.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/esa_review.htm).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Barbara Schroeder (ph. 301-713-2322, fax 301-427-2522, e-mail [Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov](mailto:Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov)); Dennis Klemm (ph. 727-824-5312, fax 727-824-5309, e-mail [Dennis.Klemm@noaa.gov](mailto:Dennis.Klemm@noaa.gov)). Comments received will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by calling 301-713-2322.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the "taking" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The term "take" is defined under the ESA to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS may issue permits, under limited circumstances, to take listed species incidental to, and not the

purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA provides for authorizing incidental take of listed species. NMFS regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are promulgated at 50 CFR 222.307.

**Species Covered in This Notice**

The following species are included in the conservation plan and Permit application: Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles.

**Background**

NMFS issued Permit 1325 to NCDMF (66 FR 51023, October 5, 2001) and Permit 1008 (61 FR 39442, July 29, 1996). Permit 1325 expired December 31, 2006 and had been issued for the years 2001-2006, replacing the previous permit (1008) which had been issued for the years 1996-2000. Permit 1008 replaced NMFS emergency rules which were issued from 1992 through 1995. The two previously issued permits and the emergency rules allowed limited tow times in lieu of the use of TEDs in an area off the North Carolina coast from Browns Inlet to Rich Inlet (approximately 30 nautical miles long (55.6km) and extending 1 nautical mile (1.9km) offshore) because of high concentrations of algae which clog shrimp trawl nets and TEDs. On December 18, 2006 NCDMF submitted an application to NMFS for a Permit (1603) to authorize the continued use of limited tow times in lieu of TEDs in the same area (Browns Inlet to Rich Inlet) when high concentrations of algae clog shrimp trawl nets and TEDs.

**Conservation Plan**

The conservation plan prepared by the NCDMF describes measures designed to monitor, minimize, and mitigate the incidental take of ESA-listed sea turtles annually from April 1 through November 30. The conservation plan includes two primary management measures, the issuance of proclamations by the NCDMF requiring vessels to obtain a tow time permit if they wish to trawl without TEDs in the restricted area and the implementation of seasonally-based tow time requirements in lieu of TEDs within the restricted area for authorized vessels. NCDMF proposes to monitor compliance and effectiveness of the management measures via monitoring of sea turtle strandings. NCDMF proposes to terminate or modify tow time permits if strandings exceed specified thresholds

in the restricted area. This is a change in monitoring from the previous conservation plan and permit, which included on-board observer coverage. The conservation plan also includes enforcement of tow times in the restricted area by Marine Patrol officers.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed sea turtles under the jurisdiction of NMFS. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all public comments received during the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 16, 2007.

**Thomas C. Eagle,**

*Acting Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E7-5272 Filed 3-21-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Technology Administration**

**National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of closed meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee will meet in closed session on Tuesday, April 3, 2007. The primary purpose of the meeting is the discussion of relative merits of persons and companies nominated for the Medal.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at 10 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Department of Commerce, Technology Administration, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, Room 4824.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Connie Chang, Research Director, Office of the Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Herbert C. Hoover

Building, Room 4824, Washington, DC 20230, telephone: 202-482-1575.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee (NMTNEC), Technology Administration, will meet at the U.S. Department of Commerce in the District of Columbia.

The committee, consisting of twelve members, was established in accordance with the provisions of the Committee's charter and the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The NMTNEC meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c)(9)(B) of Title 5, U.S.C. because it will involve discussion of relative merits of persons and companies nominated for the Medal. Public disclosure of this information would likely frustrate implementation of the National Medal of Technology program because premature publicity about candidates under consideration for the Medal, who may or may not ultimately receive the award, would be likely to discourage nominations for the Medal.

The Secretary of Commerce is responsible for recommending to the President prospective recipients of the National Medal of Technology. The committee makes its recommendations for Medal candidates to the Secretary of Commerce, who in turn makes recommendations to the President for final selection. Committee members are drawn from both the public and private sectors and are appointed by the Secretary for three-year terms, with eligibility for one reappointment. The committee members are composed of distinguished experts in the fields of science, technology, business and patent law.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on March 14, 2007 pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that the meeting may be closed because they are concerned with matters that are within the purview of 5 U.S.C. 552(c)(4), (6) and (9)(B). Due to closure of the meeting, copies of the minutes of the meeting will not be available. A copy of the determination is available for public inspection in Technology Administration, Room 4824, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Dated: March 19, 2007.

**Robert C. Cresanti,**

*Under Secretary for Technology.*

[FR Doc. 07-1436 Filed 3-21-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-18-M**

## **CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **Information Collection; Submission for OMB Review, Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation"), has submitted a public information collection request (ICR) entitled the Learn and Serve America Progress Report to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13, (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Corporation for National and Community Service, Ms. Cara Patrick at (202) 606-6905. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY-TDD) may call (202) 565-2799 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted, identified by the title of the information collection activity, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: Ms. Katherine Astrich, OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service, by any of the following two methods within 30 days from the date of publication in this **Federal Register**:

- (1) *By fax to:* (202) 395-6974, Attention: Ms. Katherine Astrich, OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service; and
- (2) *Electronically by e-mail to:* [Katherine.T.Astrich@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Katherine.T.Astrich@omb.eop.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Corporation, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Propose ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Propose ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection

techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

### **Comments**

A 60-day public comment Notice was published in the **Federal Register** on October 3, 2006. This comment period ended December 11, 2006. No public comments were received from this notice.

*Description:* The Corporation was soliciting comments concerning the proposed renewal of its Learn and Serve America Progress Report. These reports must be completed by all Learn and Serve America grantees in order to ensure appropriate Federal oversight, determine progress toward meeting program objectives and make decisions related to continuation funding.

Learn and Serve America provides grants to state education agencies, higher education institutions, tribes, and U.S. Territories, national nonprofits and state commissions on nation and community service to implement service-learning programs. To ensure appropriate oversight of Federal funds, Learn and Serve America requires all grant recipients to submit Progress Reports describing grant activities and progress toward approved program objectives. Information received from the reports informs continuation funding decisions and how to target training and technical assistance.

*Type of Review:* Renewal.

*Agency:* Corporation for National and Community Service.

*Title:* Learn and Serve America Progress Report.

*OMB Number:* 3045-0089.

*Agency Number:* None.

*Affected Public:* State and Local Government, Not-for-profit institutions.

*Total Respondents:* 103.

*Frequency:* Twice annually.

*Average Time Per Response:* 2 hours.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 412 hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* None.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* None.

Dated: January 27, 2007.

**Amy Cohen,**

*Director, Learn and Serve America.*

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**BILLING CODE 6050-SS-P**