

established to fill a need for advice and assessment on MEP's plans, strategies and performance. MEP is a unique program consisting of centers across the United States and Puerto Rico, with partnerships at the State, Federal, and local levels. The Board provides input and advice on MEP's programs, plans, and policies. At this meeting, the Board will address MEP's sustainability initiatives and efforts to deploy services into the U.S. manufacturing economy. The Board's agenda may include other Board business.

DATES: The meeting will convene April 19, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 4 p.m. on April 19, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Orlando World Center Marriott Resort & Convention Center, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, Florida 32821. Any interested person wishing to attend this meeting should submit his or her name, e-mail address and phone number to Susan Hayduk (susan.hayduk@nist.gov, (301) 975-5614) no later than c.o.b. April 9, 2009. Those who are unable to attend in person are invited to submit written statements to the MEP Advisory Board. Please send your statements to Karen Lellock at karen.lellock@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Lellock, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-4800, telephone number (301) 975-4269.

Dated: March 19, 2009.

Richard Kayser,
Chief Scientist.

[FR Doc. E9-6906 Filed 3-26-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-X036

Endangered Species; File No. 1547-02

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit modification.

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 been issued a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1547-02.

ADDRESSES: The modification 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, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978)281-9300; fax (978)281-9333;

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Malcolm Mohead or Kate Swails, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 9, 2008, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 74708) that a modification of Permit No. 1547-01, issued March 22, 2007 (72 FR 17135), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested modification has been granted 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).

In addition to all research activities authorized under Permit No. 1547-01, this modification authorizes anesthesia and gastric lavage on up to 200 shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) in the Haverstraw and Newburgh Bays of the Hudson River. The researcher also is permitted one unintentional mortality of a shortnose sturgeon during the remaining permitted period. The goal of the additional research will be to document the diet of shortnose sturgeon occupying the same habitat as Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) in the lower Hudson River. This modification will be valid through the expiration date of the original permit, October 31, 2011.

Issuance of this modification, 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 such endangered or threatened species, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 24, 2009.

Tammy C. Adams,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E9-6899 Filed 3-26-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XN99

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of exempted fishing permit applications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications, and is considering issuance of EFPs for vessels participating in the EFP fisheries. The EFPs are necessary to allow activities that are otherwise prohibited by Federal regulations. The EFPs will be effective no earlier than April 27, 2009, and would expire no later than December 31, 2009, but could be terminated earlier under terms and conditions of the EFPs and other applicable laws.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., local time on April 27, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by 0648-XN99 by any one of the following methods:

- Fax: 206-526-6736, Attn: Gretchen Arentzen.
- Mail: D. Robert Lohn, Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, Attn: Gretchen Arentzen.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To view copies of the 2009 EFP applications, visit the Pacific Council website at www.pcouncil.org and browse the September 2008 Briefing Book; or contact Gretchen Arentzen (Northwest Region, NMFS), phone: 206-526-6147, fax: 206-526-6736.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provisions at 50 CFR 600.745, which states that EFPs may be used to authorize fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited. At the September 2008 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting in Boise, Idaho, the Council considered applications for four EFPs from: (1) The Nature Conservancy and their collaborators; (2) the California Recreational Fishing Alliance and Golden Gate Fisherman's Association; (3) the Oregon Recreational Fishing