

stakeholders and anyone who would like to comment, discuss ideas, critique or provide new information that may be considered in possible revisions to the strategic plan.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center staff will present an overview of its interim report on *The Performance of the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery*, May 2010–January 2011, with a question and answer period to follow. The Council's Groundfish Committee will discuss possible revisions to the groundfish gear policy and provide an update on the development of Framework Adjustment 47 to the Groundfish FMP. The Council intends to approve Amendment 17 to the FMP to authorize state permit banks and will receive a report about the recent workshop on accumulation limits in the groundfish fishery. Following a lunch break, there will be an update about further work on Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus 2. The Council also will receive an update on alternatives that may be included in Framework Adjustment 23 to the Scallop FMP. The day will conclude with a report from the Monkfish Committee on a white paper that discusses pros and cons of reorganizing the FMP in various forms and according to the fishery operations in the Northern and Southern Fishery Management Areas. The committee also will ask the Council for further guidance on the development of Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP, an action that may include some type of catch share management.

Thursday, June 23, 2011

The final day of the Council meeting will begin with a discussion of an April 2011 report commissioned by NMFS that reviewed the fisheries management process in the Northeast in the context of the effectiveness of the relationship among Council, the NMFS Regional Office and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will provide an overview of the method and process, and any alternatives, that may be used to set 2012–2014 acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for all groundfish stocks. The SSC also will present an acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendation for the skate complex for fishing years 2012–2013. Before adjournment, the Council also may approve skate management measures that will be included in the 2012–2013 specifications package or could identify management alternatives and initiate Framework adjustment 2 to the Skate Complex FMP.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (*see ADDRESSES*) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 31, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–13763 Filed 6–2–11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA467

Endangered Species; File No. 15677

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (hereinafter "Permit Holder"), P.O. Box 12559 Charleston, SC 29422 [Responsible Party: William C. Post], has been issued a permit to take shortnose sturgeon 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, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701; phone (727) 824–5312; fax (727) 824–5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Malcolm Mohead or Colette Cairns, (301) 713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 30, 2010, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (75 FR 74003) that a scientific research permit to take shortnose sturgeon 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).

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) is authorized to conduct a five-year scientific study assessing the presence, abundance, and distribution of shortnose sturgeon in South Carolina waters (Savannah, ACE Basin, including the Ashepoo, Combabee and Edisto Rivers, Cooper, and Santee Rivers, Lake Marion and its tributaries, and the Winyah Bay system, including the Black, Waccamaw, Sampit, Little Pee Dee and Great Pee Dee Rivers), each to the first impassible dam. The SCDNR will also specifically assess shortnose sturgeon usage of the upper Santee River Basin (Wateree, Saluda, and Congaree Rivers) as part of two Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing projects: the Duke Energy Catawba Wateree and the SCANA Services Saluda Hydroelectric Projects.

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

Dated: May 27, 2011.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–13842 Filed 6–2–11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XZ51

Marine Mammals; File No. 15543

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Randall S. Wells, Ph.D. (Principal