

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are covered in this notice:

Sea Turtles

Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Fish

Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).

New Applications Received

Application 1268: The applicant requests a 5-year permit to continue to maintain 1 adult shortnose sturgeon in captivity for enhancement purposes. The applicant currently possesses an adult shortnose sturgeon received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery at Bears Bluff, SC in February 1997, under scientific research permit 1986. Permit 986 will expire on December 31, 2000, and the permit holder does not wish to renew the enhancement aspects of his permit. As a direct result, the National Aquarium in Baltimore is applying for an individual permit to continue maintenance of this fish.

Permits Issued

Notice was published on August 3, 2000 (65 FR 47715), that an application had been filed by NCDMF for an incidental take permit. Permit 1259 was issued to NCDMF on October 5, 2000. Permit 1259 authorizes the incidental take of threatened loggerhead and green sea turtles and endangered Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, and leatherback sea turtles. NCDMF's covered activities include the management of the fall 2000 season of the large mesh gillnet fishery in a specified area in southeastern Pamlico Sound and the prosecution of that fishery by North Carolina fishermen in compliance with NCDMF's implementing regulations. The activities are described in NCDMF's June 21, 2000, permit application and conservation plan (plan) and the associated Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact, and the permit. Issuance of the permit was based on a finding that NCDMF had met the permit issuance criteria of 50 CFR 222.307(c). Permit 1259 was effective upon issuance and expires on December 16, 2000.

Dated: October 27, 2000.

Craig Johnson,

Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 101200C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 376-1520-01

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. James H.W. Hain, Holder/Principal Investigator, Associated Scientists of Woods Hole, Box 721, 3 Water Street, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543, has been issued an amendment to permit no. 376-1520 to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, (978/281-9250); and

Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-5312).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Simona Roberts or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 23, 1999, Notice was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 33470) that a request for a scientific research permit to take various cetacean species, harbor and grey seals, and sea turtles during aerial/vessel surveys, collect stomach contents and baleen, and conduct passive acoustic activities had been submitted by the above-named individual. A modified version of the permit request was issued on March 20, 2000 under authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR

part 216), 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 222-227). The take of right whales, sea turtles, and stomach contents/baleen was not issued in the original permit.

This amendment now authorizes the permit holder to conduct aerial surveys and behavioral studies on right whales in the western North Atlantic Ocean from a blimp platform at a minimum altitude of 500 feet directly above and a minimum altitude of 350 feet slant range. The expiration date has also been extended to March 31, 2005.

Issuance of this amendment, 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 the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: October 26, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 051500C]

Guidelines for Economic Analysis of Fishery Management Actions

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Guidelines for Economic Analysis of Fishery Management Actions (Guidelines) provide guidance on meeting the procedural and analytical requirements of Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) for regulatory actions of federally managed fisheries. Specifically, the guidelines include a general framework for conducting economic analyses of regulatory actions; recommend that a preliminary regulatory economic evaluation be conducted early in the regulatory process to provide information on the impacts of proposed measures to the public and decision makers; outline the process for doing the regulatory impact