

by appointment, by contacting the above address, or:

Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813-893-3141).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Jordan, Endangered Species Division, (301) 713-1401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Permits are requested under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

All statements and opinions contained in the below application summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS. The holding of a hearing on this permit is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA.

Issuance of this modification, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such modification: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which is the subject of the permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. This modifications was also issued in accordance with and is subject to parts 217-222 of Title 50 CFR, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

New Application Received

ERCI (1174) requests a 5-year permit to take and conduct research on endangered shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) in the Delaware River and Estuary system and in the lower Susquehanna River/Chesapeake Bay Complex. The objectives of the study are to collect data on current distribution, abundance, length structure and movements of shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River Estuary and in the lower Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. Emphasis will be placed on calculating reliable population estimates, determining aggregation areas, and obtaining information on juvenile shortnose sturgeon. Information on population size and length distribution for the Delaware River population will be compared with that during the 1980s.

Modification Issued

On June 15, 1998 NMFS received a request from DFAS for a modification to Permit 1015. Permit 1015 allows

shortnose sturgeon to be maintained in captivity. The fish would be PIT-tagged, anaesthetized, handled, have blood and tissue samples taken, and be spawned and progeny reared, in accordance with the application and current handling standards. The modification to the permit increases the number of sturgeon that the applicant may maintain in captivity from 200 to 619. The 619 consist of: 100 1- to 3-year old sturgeon; 50 2-year old sturgeon; 30 ripe female sturgeon; 20 ripe male sturgeon; 69 sturgeon transferred from Mote Marine Laboratory (#1028) and 350 1997-year class sturgeon obtained as part of a group of 5,000 from the USFWS hatchery in Bear Bluff, SC between May and June, 1997. Modification 1 is good for the duration of the permit, which expires on September 30, 2001.

Dated: July 28, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,
Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-20633 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072498B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a scientific research permit (1173).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at Roseburg, OR (ODFW) has applied in due form for a permit that would authorize takes of an endangered species for the purpose of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application must be received on or before September 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review, by appointment, by contacting: Tom Lichatowich, Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, NMFS, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5438); or

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to

the Chief, Protected Resources Division, Portland.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: ODFW requests a five-year permit (1173) for an annual direct take of endangered, adult and juvenile cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) associated with scientific research in the Umpqua River. This action falls under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

ODFW proposes a broad-based sampling program to continue and enhance monitoring efforts of the listed species. Fish would be captured, examined, marked, and released. Traps, electrofishing and hook/line techniques would be used to capture the fish. Finclips as well as Passive Integrated Transponders (PIT) would used to mark and monitor their migrations. Data would be used to expand current knowledge about cutthroat distribution, migration patterns and population densities. Fish would also be observed by snorkeling and routine stream surveys. An indirect mortality of ESA-listed fish associated with the research is also requested.

Those individuals requesting a hearing (see **ADDRESSES**) should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on the application would be appropriate. The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the application summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: July 27, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,
Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-20634 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060998A]

Marine Mammals; File No. P524B

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. Shannon Atkinson, University of Hawaii, Institute of Marine Biology,

1000 Pope Road MSB #213, Honolulu, HI 96822, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 969 to import tissue samples from all species of Cetacea and Pinnipedia (except walrus).

ADDRESSES: The amendment 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);

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001); and

Protected Species Program Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, NMFS, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808/949-7400).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Sara Shapiro 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 27, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 3881) that an amendment of Permit No. 969, issued October 24, 1995 (60 FR 55543), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of 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.*), the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

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: July 27, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-20636 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Structured Reporting System (SRS) for the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce—Room 5327, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Gay Shrum, NTIA—Room 4892, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230. (202-482-1056).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The purpose of the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP) is to promote the widespread and efficient use of advanced telecommunications services in the public and non-profit sectors to serve America's communities. It does this by providing matching funds to public and non-profit sector organizations to use information infrastructure to provide community-wide information, health, life-long learning, education, public safety and other public services.

The Program has the following objectives:

- To increase awareness in public and non-profit sectors of the National Information Infrastructure and its benefits.
- To stimulate public and non-profit sector organizations to examine potential benefits of, and plan for, investments in the information infrastructure.
- To provide a wide variety of model information infrastructure projects for

public and non-profit sector organizations to follow.

- To educate the public and non-profit sectors about best practices in implementing a wide variety of information infrastructure projects.
- To help reduce disparities in access to, and use of, information infrastructure.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in administering TIIAP, awards a varying number of awards each year, but there are an average of 2,225 active grantees involved in some, or all, of the reporting requirements each year. In order to ensure that grant recipients are effectively promoting the efficient and widespread use of advanced telecommunications services to serve American communities and to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act, NTIA will collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data relating to start-up documentation, quarterly and annual progress, and close-out documentation on TIIAP-funded projects.

NTIA seeks a mechanism whereby it can evaluate the impacts of its projects on an ongoing basis, monitor grants more efficiently and effectively, and provide timely technical assistance to grant recipients. Currently, grantees provide qualitative quarterly progress reports and close-out documentation. Grantees also provide evaluation reports covering a wide array of sophistication and complexity of design.

To enable the Program to monitor and to analyze the impacts of the funded projects, TIIAP seeks to incorporate standardized quantitative and qualitative data elements into an online structured reporting system. The reporting system will include a set of core data elements that apply to all projects and other data elements that are specific to the applications areas of the projects.

NTIA is interested in the effects that the funded projects are having at the local level and, over the long term, at the national level. It is NTIA's intention to understand the nature and degree of those effects on the organizations implementing the projects, other organizations that are involved with the projects, the individuals who are served by the projects, and the community as a whole.

II. Method of Collection

Data will be collected through the use of automated collection techniques. The information collection instrument to be used for this study will include a web-based structured reporting system for both quantitative and qualitative project