

50 fish annually would also have Dart tags attached, be outfitted with a radio/sonic transmitter and tracked. Additionally, the researchers would also use deployed buffer pads that act as egg mats to collect up to 100 shortnose sturgeon eggs annually. This research would be conducted from 2004–2009. A total of 2 incidental mortalities is requested.

#### Application to modify existing application

A notice of receipt of an application from Dr. Douglas Peterson (File No. 1420) to take shortnose sturgeon, for scientific research was published on March 11, 2003 (68 FR 11533). Dr. Peterson sought authorization to sample and track shortnose sturgeon in the Altamaha River in Georgia for five years. Annually, up to 200 fish were to be taken via gill and trammel netting, measured, weighed, PIT and Carlin tagged, tissue and pectoral fin ray samples taken, and the fish subsequently released. Additionally, up to 10 of the total fish sampled annually were to also receive an internal radio-sonic transmitter. Dr. Peterson also proposed to deploy artificial substrate samplers from February to mid-March to collect up to 100 shortnose sturgeon eggs annually. Dr. Peterson now proposes to increase the number of fish receiving an internal radio-sonic transmitter from 10 individuals to 30.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)713–0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

Dated: September 2, 2003.

**Jill Lewandowski,**

*Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 03–22919 Filed 9–8–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 073103A]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 550–1712

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Bernd Wursig, Ph.D., Professor of Marine Biology, Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Director, Institute of Marine Life Sciences, Texas A&M University, 4700 Avenue U, Building 303, Galveston, TX 77551 has been issued a permit to take bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) 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, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713–2289; fax (301)713–0376; and

Southeast Region, NOAA Fisheries, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702–2432; phone (727)570–5301; fax (727)570–5320.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jill Lewandowski or Carrie Hubard, (301)713–2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 17, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 35859) that a request for a scientific research permit to take bottlenose dolphins had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The purpose of the authorized research, as stated in the application, is to study the behavioral ecology of bottlenose dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico. Research will occur over a five-year period and focus specifically along the Texas and Louisiana coastlines.

Dated: August 25, 2003.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

*Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries.*

[FR Doc. 03–22918 Filed 9–8–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

**Agency:** United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

**Title:** Statutory Invention Registration.

**Form Number(s):** PTO/SB/94.

**Agency Approval Number:** 0651–

0036.

**Type of Request:** Revision of a currently approved collection.

**Burden:** 29 hours annually.

**Number of Respondents:** 73 responses per year.

**Avg. Hours Per Response:** The USPTO estimates that it will take approximately 24 minutes (0.4 hours) to submit a Statutory Invention Registration request or petition. This includes time to gather the necessary information, prepare the documents, and submit the completed request.

**Needs and Uses:** Under 35 U.S.C. 157 and 37 CFR 1.293–1.297, the USPTO is authorized to publish a statutory invention registration containing the specifications and drawings of a regularly filed application for a patent without examination, provided the applicant meets all the requirements for printing, waives the right to receive a patent on the invention within a certain period of time prescribed by the USPTO, and pays all application, publication, and other processing fees. This collection includes information needed by the USPTO to review and approve or deny such requests. The applicant may also petition the USPTO to review final refusal to publish or to withdraw a request to publish a statutory invention registration. The USPTO is submitting this collection in support of a proposed rulemaking “Changes to Support Implementation of the USPTO 21st Century Strategic Plan” (RIN 0651–AB64), which would support the use of electronic signatures on documents and increase the filing fees for the petitions that are included in this collection.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households, business or other for-profits, not-for-profit institutions, farms, the Federal Government, and state, local or tribal governments.

**Frequency:** On occasion.