

Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and/or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 50 CFR 635.32 govern scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity with respect to Atlantic HMS.

Several operators of permitted Atlantic pelagic longline vessels have requested exemptions from certain regulations applicable to the harvest and landing of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) in order to conduct bycatch reduction research in the following regions of the Atlantic Ocean: North of Cape Hatteras, South of Cape Hatteras, and Gulf of Mexico (GOM). Specifically, the permitted pelagic longline vessels propose to test gear modifications and/or various fishing techniques to avoid incidentally-caught white marlin, blue marlin, bluefin tuna, and sea turtles, while allowing for the targeted catches of allowed species.

Research experiments will be carried out, to the extent practicable, within open fishing areas. However, due to statistical protocols to demonstrate the effectiveness of gear modifications it may be necessary to conduct comparison experiments inside of existing closed areas. Restricted access within existing closed areas has been proposed by the applicants as terms and conditions of the proposed research in order to minimize or eliminate the potential for gear and/or fishing grounds conflicts. Within the GOM region, two pelagic longline vessels propose to conduct 100 compensated bycatch reduction fishing sets (approximately 750 hooks/set) during a limited time period (May through October). Within the North of Cape Hatteras region, two pelagic longline vessels propose to conduct 50 compensated bycatch reduction fishing sets (approximately 680 hooks/set) during a limited time period (May, June, and July). Within the South of Cape Hatteras region, two pelagic longline vessels propose to conduct 50 compensated bycatch reduction fishing sets (approximately 556 hooks/set) during a limited time period (October through December).

This research may benefit all interested parties by providing fishery managers with additional gear modifications and/or fishing techniques that reduce or avoid incidental capture/bycatch mortality of highly migratory species (HMS) in the research areas as proposed above.

The regulations that would prohibit the proposed activities include requirements for size limits (50 CFR 635.20) and gear operation and deployment (50 CFR 635.21).

NMFS invites comments from interested parties on potential concerns should these EFPs be issued.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 13, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04-19053 Filed 8-19-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081604B]

Endangered Species; File No. 1494

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that St. George's School, P.O. Box 1910, Newport, RI, 02840, has applied in due form for a permit to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before September 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The application 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, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320.

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.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1494.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Opay or Jennifer Skidmore, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested 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).

The applicant proposes to capture, weigh, measure, flipper tag, tissue sample and release 50 loggerhead, 5 green, 5 hawksbill, 5 Kemp's ridley sea turtles. Animals would be captured by dip net or by hand from the waters of the western Atlantic Ocean. The applicant also proposes to import tissue samples from each of these species taken legally during separate research being conducted in the waters of the Bahamas. The purpose of the research conducted under Permit No. 1494 would be to obtain life history and growth rate data on these species. Information from this study would be used to help determine migratory behavior and habitat utilization of sea turtles. The results of this study would provide a better understanding of the migratory demographics for constructing models that can then be used to better formulate species management plans.

Dated: August 16, 2004.

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

[FR Doc. 04-19167 Filed 8-19-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 040812237-4237-01]

NOAA Five-Year Research Plan Draft and NOAA Twenty-Year Research Vision Draft

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and Request for Public Comment.

SUMMARY: NOAA publishes this notice to announce the availability of the NOAA 5-Year Research Plan Draft and the NOAA 20-Year Research Vision Draft for public comment.

DATES: Comments on these draft documents must be submitted by September 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The NOAA 5-Year Research Plan Draft will be available at the following location: <ftp://www.oarhq.noaa.gov/review/5> and the NOAA 20-Year Research Vision Draft will be available at: <ftp://www.oarhq.noaa.gov/review/20>.

The public is encouraged to submit comments on the NOAA 5-Year Research Plan Draft electronically to: Review.5Year@noaa.gov. The public is encouraged to submit comments on the NOAA 20-Year Research Vision Draft electronically to:

Review.20Year@noaa.gov. For commenters who do not have access to a computer, comments on both documents may be submitted in writing to: NOAA Research, c/o Dr. Terry Schaefer, Silver Spring Metro Center Bldg. 3, Room 11863, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Terry Schaefer, Silver Spring Metro Center Bldg. 3, Room 11863, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 (phone (301) 713-2465 ext. 184), during normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or visit the NOAA Research Council Web site at: <http://www.nrc.noaa.gov/Reports.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA is publishing this notice to announce the availability of the NOAA 5-Year Research Plan Draft and the NOAA 20-Year Research Vision Draft for public comment. The NOAA 5-Year Research Plan Draft and the NOAA 20-Year Research Vision Draft will be posted for public comment on August 20, 2004. The NOAA Research Council is seeking public comment from all interested parties. The NOAA 5-Year Research Plan Draft and the NOAA 20-Year Research Vision are being issued for comment only and are not intended for interim use. Suggested changes will be incorporated, where appropriate, in the final version.

The NOAA 5-Year Research Plan and the NOAA 20-Year Research Vision are being developed by the NOAA Research Council in response to a January 2004 recommendation from the NOAA Science Advisory Board that NOAA take immediate steps to promulgate a NOAA-wide research plan that is consistent with NOAA's Strategic Plan.

The NOAA 5-Year Research Plan Draft lays the path for how NOAA's research enterprise will begin to deliver, in the short-term, improvements to existing forecasting tools. This plan explicitly states outcomes for the short term and the milestones by which we intend to measure progress towards achieving those outcomes, framed within a vision of a future NOAA.

In order to address the longer-term research goals of the agency, the Research Council has developed the NOAA 20-Year Research Vision Draft. This high-level document intends to outline some of the potential products and services that NOAA will provide in the future, and will further aid environmental forecasting and management over the next 20 years.

NOAA welcomes all comments on the content of the NOAA 5-Year Research Plan Draft and the NOAA 20-Year Research Vision Draft. We also request comments on any inconsistencies perceived within the documents, and possible omissions of important topics or issues. For any shortcoming noted within the draft documents, please propose specific remedies.

Please adhere to the instructions detailed herein for preparing and submitting your comments. Using the format guidance described below will facilitate the processing of reviewer comments and assure that all comments are appropriately considered. Please provide background information about yourself on the first page of your comments: Your name(s), organization(s), area(s) of expertise, mailing address(es), telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address(es). Overview comments should follow your background information and should be numbered. Comments that are specific to particular pages, paragraphs, or lines of the section should follow any overview comments and should identify the page numbers to which they apply. Please number and print identifying information at the top of all pages.

Public comments may be submitted from August 20, 2004, through September 30, 2004.

Dated: August 17, 2004.

Richard D. Rosen,

Chair, NOAA Research Council.

[FR Doc. 04-19219 Filed 8-19-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

Technology Administration Performance Review Board Membership

The Technology Administration Performance Review Board (TA PRB) reviews performance appraisals, agreements, and recommended actions pertaining to employees in the Senior Executive Service and reviews performance-related pay increases for ST-3104 employees. The Board makes recommendations to the appropriate appointing authority concerning such matters so as to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of these individuals.

This notice lists the membership of the TA PRB and supersedes the list published in **Federal Register** document 04-2830, Vol. 69, No. 27, page 59575, dated February 10, 2004.

- Daniel W. Caprio, Jr. (NC); Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy, Office of Technology Policy, Technology Administration, Washington, DC, Appointment Expires: 12/31/06.
- Belinda L. Collins (C), Deputy Director for Technology Services, National Institute of Standards & Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Appointment Expires: 12/31/05.
- Stephen Freiman (C), Deputy Director, Materials Science & Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards & Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Appointment Expires: 12/31/04.
- Cita Furlani (C), Chief Information Officer, National Institute of Standards & Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Appointment Expires: 12/31/05.
- Daniel Hurley (C), Director of Communication and Information Infrastructure Assurance Program, National Telecommunications and Information Administration; Washington, DC 20230, Appointment Expires: 12/31/05.
- Deirdre Jones (C), Director of Systems Engineering Center, Office of Science and Technology, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Appointment Expires: 12/31/05.
- William F. Koch (C), Deputy Director, Chemical Science & Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards & Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Appointment Expires: 12/31/04.
- Michelle O'Neill (C), Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for