

DATES: Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern standard time, on August 16, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application may be sent via fax to 727-824-5308 or mailed to: Julie Weeder, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Comments may be submitted by e-mail to sc.aquarium@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail document the following text: Comment on South Carolina Aquariums EFP Application. The application and related documents are available for review upon written request to the NMFS address above or to julie.weeder@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Weeder, 727-824-5305; fax 727-824-5308; e-mail: julie.weeder@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EFP is requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) concerning exempted fishing.

According to the applicant, the South Carolina Aquarium is a not-for-profit, educational and conservation based organization that displays specimens indigenous to South Carolina. The proposed collection for public display involves activities otherwise prohibited by regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, Atlantic Coast Red Drum, Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic, and Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

The applicant requires authorization to harvest and possess up to 50 spiny lobster, 75 penaeid shrimp, 6 wahoo, 50 pompano, 25 porkfish, 25 sheepshead, 24 triggerfish (*Balistes* spp.), 125 porgies (*Calamus* spp.), 6 ocean triggerfish, 75 jacks (*Caranx* spp.), 50 sea basses (*Centropristis* spp.), 75 spadefish, 85 groupers (*Epinephelus* spp.), 115 grunts (*Haemulon* spp.), 3 puddingwife, 150 snappers (*Lutjanus* spp.), 25 sand tilefish, 100 groupers (*Myctoperca* spp.), 12 yellowtail snapper, 25 red porgy, 12 cobia, 25 vermilion snapper, 25 red drum, 25 cero, and 100 jacks (*Seriola* spp.). Collections would occur in Federal waters off the coast of South Carolina between August 1, 2005 and July 31, 2007. Specimens would be collected using the following gear and methods: hand nets, dip nets, vertical hook-and-line and trolling with rod and reel and natural and artificial bait, sea bass pots,

spiny lobster traps, and golden crab traps.

NMFS finds that this application warrants further consideration, based on a preliminary review, and intends to issue an EFP. Possible conditions the agency may impose on this permit, if it is indeed granted, include but are not limited to: Reduction in the number of specimens of any or all species to be collected; restrictions on the size of fish to be collected; prohibition of the harvest of any fish with visible external tags; and specification of locations, dates, and/or seasons allowed for collection of any or all species. A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on a NMFS review of public comments received on the application, conclusions of environmental analyses conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and consultations with South Carolina, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The applicant requests a 24-month effective period for the EFP.

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

Dated: July 26, 2005.

Alan D. Risenhoover

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E5-4080 Filed 7-29-E5; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071105A]

Endangered Species; File No. 1526

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Andre Landry, Sea Turtle and Fisheries Ecology Research Lab, Texas A&M University at Galveston, 5007 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 77553 has been issued a permit to take Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles 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,

NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5517.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick Opay or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 25, 2005, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 21178) that a request for a scientific research permit to take loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, and green sea turtles had been submitted by the above-named individual. 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).

Permit No. 1526 authorizes Dr. Landry to study Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, green, and hawksbill sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico to identify their relative abundance over time; detect changes in sea turtle size composition; document movement and migration patterns; and determine the role of nearshore habitats in sea turtle survival.

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

Dated: July 26, 2005.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 05-15143 Filed 7-29-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Advisory Council

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.