

reasonable alternatives in the EIS including the proposed action (implementation of the co-managers' Resource Management Plans) and a No Action alternative. Additional alternatives could include at least the following: (1) a decrease in artificial production in selected programs that have a primary goal of augmenting fisheries, and (2) an increase in artificial production in selected programs that have a primary goal of augmenting fisheries.

Comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties to ensure that the EIS considers the full range of related issues and alternatives to the proposed action. NMFS requests that comments be as specific as possible. In particular, NMFS requests information regarding: other possible alternatives; the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that implementation of the proposed Resource Management Plans could have on endangered and threatened species and their communities and habitats; potential adaptive management and/or monitoring provisions; funding issues; baseline environmental conditions in Clallam, Island, King, Kitsap, Jefferson, Mason, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom Counties; other plans or projects that might be relevant to this proposed project; and potential methods to minimize and mitigate for impacts.

Written comments concerning the proposed action and its environmental review should be directed to NMFS as described above (see **ADDRESSES**). All comments and materials received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public. Questions may be directed to Allyson Ouzts with NMFS at (503) 736-4736.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1500 parts 1508), and other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of NMFS for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: May 7, 2004.

Phil Williams,

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

[FR Doc. 04-10788 Filed 5-11-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041604B]

Endangered Species; File No. 1438

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Thane Wibbels, Department of Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294-1170 has been issued a permit to take Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), and green (*Chelonia mydas*) 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 offices:

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;

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 16, 2003 notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 35630) that a request for a scientific research permit to take loggerhead, Kemp's ridley 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).

The permit holder will utilize tangle net methodology combined with observational surveys from boats to study sea turtles in the estuarine systems of Alabama state waters from Grand Bay to Perdido Bay. The purpose of the research is to provide a basic understanding of the abundance, location, and movement of sea turtles within these estuarine ecosystems. This research will help resource managers develop optimal management strategies for these estuaries in order to conserve and protect sea turtles and their habitat. The permit holder will take 30 Kemp's

ridley, 30 loggerhead, and 30 green sea turtles annually. Turtles will be captured with a 9.9 inch (25 cm) mesh tangle net that is 731.7 feet (223 m) long by 19.7 feet (6 m) deep. Turtles will be measured, weighed, flipper tagged, blood sampled and released. A subset of five loggerhead and five Kemp's ridley sea turtles will be tagged with a sonic or satellite transmitter. The duration of this permit is 5 years.

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 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: May 6, 2004.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 04-10784 Filed 5-11-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041904B]

Endangered Species; File No. 1295

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the NMFS Northeast Fishery Science Center (Responsible Official- Dr. John Boreman) has been issued a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1295.

ADDRESSES: The modification and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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;

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 5, 2004, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 5508)

that a modification of Permit No. 1295, issued June 4, 2001 (66 FR 29934), had been requested by the above-named organization. The requested modification has been granted 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 modification authorizes the NEFSC (1) to conduct research designed to develop and test methods to reduce incidental bycatch of sea turtles that occurs in a commercial pound net fishery (2) to sample sea turtles captured during research designed to develop and test methods to reduce incidental bycatch of these species that occurs in scallop drag fisheries, and (3) to sample sea turtles captured during the NEFSC's biennial shark longline surveys. The modification would authorize an additional take of 113 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), 2 green (*Chelonia mydas*), 40 Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and 2 leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtles annually during the remaining 2 years of the existing permit. The research will be conducted in the shelf waters of the Atlantic Ocean from Florida to the Gulf of Maine. Up to 2 loggerhead and 3 Kemp's Ridley sea turtle interactions are expected to result in lethal takes annually.

Issuance of this modification, 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: May 6, 2004.

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

[FR Doc. 04–10785 Filed 5–11–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042804A]

Endangered Species; File No. 1245

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that J. David Whitaker, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, South Carolina 29422–2559, has been issued a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1245.

ADDRESSES: The modification 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Jefferies or Carrie Hubbard, (301)713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 13, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 64320) that modification of Permit No. 1245, issued May 19, 2000 (65 FR 36666), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested modification has been granted 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).

Permit No. 1245 authorizes the permit holder to capture, handle, flipper and PIT tag, blood and tissue sample, perform ultrasound and release 350 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), 50 Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), 10 green (*Chelonia mydas*), 5 hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and 3 leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) turtles along the Southeast United States coastline. The modification will authorize the researchers to satellite tag 9 loggerhead turtles and acoustic tag 24 loggerhead turtles in order to begin to determine feeding site fidelity and migratory patterns of juvenile loggerhead sea turtles along the South Carolina coastline. This modification will be authorized for the duration of the Permit which expires on October 31, 2005.

Issuance of this modification, 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: May 6, 2004.

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

[FR Doc. 04–10786 Filed 5–11–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee, Notice of Charter Renewal; Renewal of the President's National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee Charter

AGENCY: Technology Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of the renewal of the National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee Charter.

SUMMARY: Please note that the Secretary of Commerce, with the concurrence of the General Services Administration, has renewed the Charter for the National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee on April 12, 2004. It has been determined that the Committee is necessary and in the public interest.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mildred Porter, Director and Designated Federal Official, National Medal of Technology, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 4843, Washington, DC 20230, phone: 202/482–5572; e-mail: NMT@technology.gov.

Dated: May 3, 2004.

Mildred Porter,
Director and Designated Federal Official,
National Medal of Technology.

[FR Doc. 04–10712 Filed 5–11–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

RIN 0692–AA08

National Medal of Technology's Call for Nominations 2005

AGENCY: Technology Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Announcement: call for nominations for the National Medal of Technology 2005.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce's Technology Administration