

ADDRESSES: The amendment requests 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 Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted 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 amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, 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 e-mail comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of e-mail comments the following document identifiers: File No. 716-1705 (Fred Sharpe) or File No. 545-1761 (North Gulf Oceanic Society).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Carrie Hubard, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendments to Permit No. 716-1705-00, issued on June 30, 2004, and Permit No. 545-1761-00 issued on September 16, 2005, are requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (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. 716-1705-00 authorizes Dr. Sharpe to conduct research on the behavior, social structure, and foraging ecology of North Pacific humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), including close approach for photo-identification and behavioral observation, takes by acoustic recordings and playbacks of conspecific sound, and takes by suction cup tagging with Crittercam/TDR dive tags. Dr. Sharpe is also permitted to conduct

opportunistic photo-identification and behavioral observation of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*). Research occurs in the waters of southeastern Alaska including Chatham Strait, Dixon Entrance, Cross Sound, and Icy Strait and the waters of Washington state. The permit expires on June 30, 2009.

The permit holder requests authorization to use a novel filming technique, a mini-helicopter, during an opportunistic, limited time period in southeast Alaska during July and August 2008. The applicant indicates that the use of the mini-helicopter would provide information that could be used for: (1) predicting energetic models of lunge-feeding humpback whales; (2) discerning physical positioning to determine whether lunge-feeding whales maintain specialized positions; and (3) studying the functional morphology of engulfment feeding. Such information would complement the already permitted behavioral study of lunge-feeding humpback whales. Based on video documentation of the use of the mini-helicopter to film humpback whales in foreign waters, this technique is not expected to result in added harassment to the whales, and in fact, is expected to reduce potential harassment from boat approaches.

Permit No. 545-1761-00 authorizes the North Gulf Oceanic Society to conduct population studies on numerous cetacean species with a particular emphasis on killer whales. The research focuses on the study of: (1) mating and social systems and feeding behavior of killer whales; and (2) diving behavior, feeding, movement and contaminant loads of several cetacean species. Takes may occur by close approach for vessel surveys, photo-identification, behavioral observation, passive acoustic recording, tagging, biopsy sampling, export of parts, and incidental harassment. Research takes place in waters off Alaska, including Glacier Bay/Icy Strait, Sitka Sound, Prince William Sound, Kenai Fjords, Resurrection Bay, Eastern Aleutian chain, and Kodiak Island. The permit expires on September 15, 2010.

The permit holder requests authorization to use the same mini-helicopter, during an opportunistic, limited time period in Alaska during August/September 2008. The mini-helicopter would be used to measure total body length of killer whales in order to assess individual growth, make population size comparisons, and model the energetic requirements of killer whales. Data obtained from the mini-helicopter would allow researchers to obtain proportional measurements of

blowhole-dorsal and full body length, which can be used to construct a regression to describe this relationship.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: June 2, 2008.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E8-12716 Filed 6-5-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XH63

Permits; Foreign Fishing

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of foreign fishing application; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS reopens the public review and comment period that closed May 30, 2008, for information regarding a foreign fishing application submitted under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

DATES: Comments must be received by June 20, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send comments or requests for a copy of the application to NMFS, Office of International Affairs, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Comments on this notice may also be submitted by e-mail to nmfs.foreignfishing@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line the following document identifier: RIN 0648-XH63.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Rogers, Office of International Affairs, (301) 713-9090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 204(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1824(d)) provides, among other things, that the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) may issue a transshipment permit which authorizes a vessel other than a vessel of the United States to engage in fishing consisting solely of transporting fish or

fish products at sea from a point within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or, with the concurrence of a state, within the boundaries of that state to a point outside the United States. In addition, Public Law 104–297, sec. 105(e) directs the Secretary to issue section 204(d) permits for up to 14 Canadian transport vessels to receive Atlantic herring harvested by United States fishermen within the boundaries of the State of Maine or within the portion of the EEZ east of the line 69 degrees 30 minutes west and within 12 nautical miles from the seaward boundary of that State.

Section 204(d)(3)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides that an application may not be approved until the Secretary determines that “no owner or operator of a vessel of the United States which has adequate capacity to perform the transportation for which the application is submitted has indicated ... an interest in performing the transportation at fair and reasonable rates.” NMFS is publishing this notice as part of its effort to make such a determination with respect to the application described below.

Summary of Application

NMFS has received an application requesting authorization for 11 Canadian transport vessels to receive transfers of herring from U.S. purse harvesting vessels for the purpose of transporting the herring to processing plants in Canada. The transshipment operations will occur within the boundaries of the State of Maine or within the portion of the exclusive economic zone east of the line 69 degrees 30 minutes west and within 12 nautical miles from the seaward boundary of that State.

Interested U.S. vessel owners and operators may obtain a copy of the complete application from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: June 2, 2008.

Rebecca Lent,

*Director, Office of International Affairs,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E8–12737 Filed 6–5–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XI22

Schedules for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops

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

ACTION: Notice of public workshops.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces free Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops to be held in July, August, and September 2008. Certain fishermen and shark dealers are required to attend a workshop to meet new regulatory requirements and maintain valid permits. The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop is mandatory for all federally permitted Atlantic shark dealers. The Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop is mandatory for vessel owners and operators who use bottom longline, pelagic longline, or gillnet gear, and have also been issued shark or swordfish limited access permits. Additional free workshops will be held in 2008 and announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops will be held July 31, August 28, and September 16 and 30, 2008.

The Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops will be held July 22 and 29, August 27, and September 3, 2008.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for further details.

ADDRESSES: The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops will be held in Charleston, SC; Richmond, TX; and South Daytona, FL.

The Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops will be held in Panama City, FL; Bohemia, NY; Port Aransas, TX; and Ocean City, MD.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for further details on workshop locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Fairclough by phone:(727) 824–5399, or by fax: (727) 824–5398.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The workshop schedules, registration information, and a list of frequently asked questions regarding these workshops are posted on the internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/workshops/>.

Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop

Effective December 31, 2007, an Atlantic shark dealer may not receive, purchase, trade, or barter for Atlantic shark unless a valid Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop certificate is on the premises of each business listed under the shark dealer permit (71 FR 58057; October 2, 2006). Dealers who attend and successfully complete a workshop will be issued a certificate for each place of business that is permitted to receive sharks.

Dealers may send a proxy to an Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop, however, if a dealer opts to send a proxy, the dealer must designate a proxy for each place of business covered by the dealer's permit. Only one certificate will be issued to each proxy. A proxy must be a person who: is currently employed by a place of business covered by the dealer's permit; is a primary participant in the identification, weighing, and/or first receipt of fish as they are offloaded from a vessel; and fills out dealer reports. Additionally, after December 31, 2007, an Atlantic shark dealer may not renew a Federal shark dealer permit unless a valid Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop certificate for each business location has been submitted with the permit renewal application. Sixteen free Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops were held in 2007.

Workshop Dates, Times, and Locations

1. July 31, 2008, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research, 219 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412.

2. August 28, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., George Memorial Library, 1001 Golfview Drive, Richmond, TX 77649.

3. September 16, 2008, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Piggotte Community Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona, FL 32119.

4. September 30, 2008, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Piggotte Community Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona, FL 32119.

Registration

To register for a scheduled Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop, please contact Eric Sander by email at esander@peoplepc.com or by phone at (386) 852–8588.

Registration Materials

To ensure that workshop certificates are linked to the correct permits, participants will need to bring the following items to the workshop:

Atlantic shark dealer permit holders must bring proof that the individual is an agent of the business (such as articles