

ordered. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument is an electron microscope and is intended for research or scientific educational uses requiring an electron microscope. We know of no electron microscope, or any other instrument suited to these purposes, which was being manufactured in the United States at the time of order of each instrument.

Dated: July 8, 2008.

Faye Robinson,

*Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff,
Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. E8-15832 Filed 7-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-X199

Endangered Species; File Nos. 13306 and 13307

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

ACTION: Issuance of permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Karen Holloway-Adkins, East Coast Biologists, Inc., P.O. Box 33715, Indialantic, FL, 32903 (File No. 13306) and Kristen Hart, 3205 College Ave., Davie, FL, 33314 (File No. 13307) have been issued permits to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permits 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 Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 2, 2008, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 17956) that a request for scientific research permits to take sea turtles had been submitted by the above-named individuals. 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).

File No. 13306: Ms. Holloway-Adkins will capture up to 60 green and 5 loggerhead sea turtles annually. The turtles will be weighed, measured, flipper tagged, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagged, and blood and tissue sampled. A subset of green turtles will be lavaged. The applicant will also conduct visual transect surveys. This research will characterize the turtle aggregation using the nearshore reef system of Brevard county, Florida as well as monitor the impact of local beach nourishment activities on the sea turtles and their habitat.

File No. 13307: Dr. Hart will capture up to 30 green, 20 hawksbill, and 20 loggerhead sea turtles annually. Turtles will be weighed, measured, flipper tagged, PIT tagged, blood sampled, tissue sampled, fecal sampled, and lavaged. A subset of turtles will be tagged with a satellite tag or acoustic transmitter or a combination of both. This research will address fine-scale temporal and spatial patterns of sea turtle habitat use, ecology, and genetic origin within the Dry Tortugas National Park.

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

Dated: July 7, 2008.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E8-15835 Filed 7-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-AV80

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 30B

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

ACTION: Notice announcing the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: NMFS, in cooperation with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council), is preparing an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Amendment 30B to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico. This notice is intended to inform the public of the reconsideration from preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to preparing a draft EIS for Amendment 30B.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Hood; phone: (727) 824-5305; fax: (727) 824-5308; email:

Peter.Hood@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 5, 2007 (72 FR 9734), NMFS and the Council published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* to prepare a draft EIS and to announce scoping meetings regarding the actions proposed in Amendment 30. Amendment 30 was being developed to describe and analyze management alternatives to manage fishing mortality and to establish status criteria for greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, gag, and red grouper in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Recent stock assessments completed under the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review program indicated that management changes were warranted for these stocks.

Based on comments received during the scoping process and further analyses needed for the gag and red grouper stock assessments, Amendment 30 was split into Amendments 30A and 30B. This allowed proposed actions to revise the greater amberjack rebuilding plan, end overfishing of gray triggerfish, and rebuild the gray triggerfish stock to proceed in Amendment 30A while the status of the gag and red grouper stocks were resolved. A supplemental EIS was prepared for Amendment 30A, in part, due to significant increases in the stock biomass of greater amberjack and gray triggerfish as the two species recover from their respective overfished states. A Notice of Availability for the final supplemental EIS analyzing impacts on the human environment for Amendment 30A was published in the *Federal Register* on April 18, 2008 (73 FR 21124).

Actions to be described and analyzed in Amendment 30B include: setting gag thresholds and benchmarks; establishing gag and red grouper total allowable catch (TAC), interim

allocations, and accountability measures; ending overfishing of gag; managing gag and red grouper commercial and recreational harvests consistent with TAC; reducing grouper discard mortality; establishing seasonal-area closures; and requiring compliance with Federal fishery management regulations by federally permitted reef fish vessels when fishing in state waters. Based on further analysis of the environmental impacts of actions proposed in Amendment 30B, NMFS and the Council did not anticipate any significant impacts on the human environment and published a notice on March 7, 2008 (73 FR 12393) announcing an EA would be the appropriate NEPA document. Subsequent to this evaluation, the Council wished to examine a more extensive seasonal area closure to protect spawning aggregations of gag and other reef fish species. As a result of this and other changes, NMFS and the Council determined actions in Amendment 30B could be significant to the human environment and determined an EIS was required to further evaluate the impacts of Amendment 30B.

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

Dated: July 7, 2008.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-15802 Filed 7-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XI31

Marine Mammals; File No. 716-1705

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Fred Sharpe, Ph.D., Alaska Whale Foundation, 4739 University Way NE, #1239, Seattle Washington 98105 has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 716-1705-00.

ADDRESSES: The amendment 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)427-2521;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426; and

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 6, 2008, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 32307) that an amendment of Permit No. 716-1705-00 had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted 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 (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 amendment authorizes Dr. Sharpe to use a mini-helicopter to film lunge feeding humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in Southeast Alaska in July and August, 2008.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a supplemental environmental assessment was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities. After a Finding of No Significant Impact, the determination was made that it was not necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement.

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 such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 7, 2008.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E8-15834 Filed 7-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[FWS-R1-R-2008-N0040; 1265-0000-10137-S3]

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Hawaii

AGENCIES: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of extension of the public comment period for the draft monument management plan and environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the public comment period has been extended for the NOAA, FWS, and the State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and Office of Hawaiian Affairs' Draft Monument Management Plan (MMP) and associated environmental assessment (EA) for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument). See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for details.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive written comments by July 23, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The Draft MMP and EA are available on the FWS and NOAA Web sites <http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands> and <http://hawaiiireef.noaa.gov/>, as well as at local libraries within the State of Hawaii. You may provide written comments on the Draft MMP and EA by any of the following methods:

U.S. Mail: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Attn: Susan White, FWS Superintendent, Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850-5000 (must be postmarked by July 23);

Hand-delivery: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument at 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231 in Honolulu; or

E-mail:
PMNM_MMP_Comments@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan White, FWS Superintendent, phone (808) 792-9480.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 75-day federal public comment period for the Draft Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan (73 FR 21975, April 23, 2008) has been extended for an additional 15 days, until July 23, 2008. The draft plan was released by the National Oceanic and