

**Abstract:** A microwave frequency standard is provided which allows for miniaturization down to length scales of order one micron, comprising a modulated light field originating from a laser that illuminates a collection of quantum absorbers contained in a micro-machined cell. The frequency standard of the present invention can be based on all-optical excitation techniques such as coherent population trapping (CPT) and stimulated Raman scattering or on conventional microwave-excited designs. In a CPT-based embodiment, a photodetector detects a change in transmitted power through the cell and that is used to stabilize an external oscillator to correspond to the absorber's transition frequency by locking the laser modulation frequency to the transition frequency. In a stimulated Raman scattering (SRS) embodiment, a high-speed photodetector detects a laser field transmitted through the cell beating with a second field originating in the cell. Both the locked laser modulation frequency and the beat frequency are very stable as they are referenced directly to the atomic transition.

Dated: May 18, 2006.

**Hratch G. Semerjian,**

*Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. E6-8154 Filed 5-25-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051806C]

#### Endangered Species; Permit No. 1298

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit modification.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden [Principal Investigator, Mr. Charles Scott Pfaff], P.O. Box 1060, Columbia, SC 29202, has been issued an amendment to Permit No. 1298 to extend the expiration date of the permit through May 31, 2007.

#### ADDRESSES:

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

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.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Skidmore and Kate Swails (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 21, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 27940) that Permit No. 1298 had been issued to the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden for the continued maintenance of eleven adult shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) received from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in 1996 for education purposes. This permit amendment extends the duration of the permit from May 31, 2006, to May 31, 2007. The requested modification have been granted under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the provisions of § 222.306 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222-226).

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

Dated: May 19, 2006.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-8179 Filed 5-26-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051906C]

#### Endangered Species; File No. 1579

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

**ACTION:** Notice; Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Alden Research Laboratory, Inc. (Edward P. Taft, Responsible Party), 30 Shrewsbury Street, Holden, MA, 01520, has applied in due form for a permit to take shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before June 26, 2006.

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) 427-2521; and Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978) 281-9328; fax (978) 281-9394.

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) 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 email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the email comment the following document identifier: File No. 1579.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Swails 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 conduct research on entrainment and impingement rates for selected bar rack and bypass configurations in attempt to identify design criteria for a downstream passage facility at the Hadley Falls Hydroelectric Project on the Connecticut River. The applicant would use captive-bred sturgeon and all testing would take place in the Alden Lab testing flume. Annually, up to 200 sturgeon would be transported from hatcheries, measured, handled, Passive Integrated Transponder tagged, and participate in the flume testing. At the end of the five-year study the sturgeon would be sacrificed.

Dated: May 19, 2006.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-8181 Filed 5-26-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041806D]

#### Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act; Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery

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

**ACTION:** Notice of scoping process;  
extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** In a document published in  
the **Federal Register** on April 24, 2006,  
NMFS announced its intention to re-  
open the scoping process and accept  
further comments on the  
recommendations contained in  
Amendment 6 to Atlantic States Marine  
Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC)  
Interstate Fishery Management Plan for  
Atlantic Striped Bass (Amendment 6).  
NMFS originally conducted scoping on  
the matter in 2003, but decided to re-  
open the scoping process and accept  
further comments due to the passage of  
significant time and the availability of  
new information. The intent of this  
document is to announce the extension  
of the public comment period from May  
26, 2006, to June 26, 2006.

**DATES:** Comments on this action must be  
received (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than  
5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on or  
before June 26, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and  
requests for copies of the draft  
document should be sent to: Tom  
Meyer, State-Federal Fisheries Division,  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS,  
1315 East West Highway, Room 13248,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910. Mark the  
outside of the envelope "Striped Bass  
Scoping." An electronic copy of the  
draft document and supporting  
documents (ANPR and a Notice of  
Intent to Prepare an EIS (NOI)) may also  
be obtained on the State-Federal  
Fisheries Division's Web site under  
*Regulatory Activities* at [http://  
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/state\\_federal/  
state\\_federal.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/state_federal/state_federal.htm). Comments may also  
be sent via fax to (301) 713-0596, or via  
e-mail to: *Striped-  
Bass.Comments@noaa.gov*. Include in  
the subject line of the fax or e-mail the

following document identifier: *Striped  
Bass Scoping*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom  
Meyer, telephone (301) 713-2334, x173.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As  
announced in the **Federal Register** on  
July 21, 2003 (68 FR 43074), NMFS  
requested comments on potential  
revisions to the Federal Atlantic striped  
bass regulations for the U.S. EEZ in  
response to recommendations from the  
Commission to the Secretary. The  
comment period was subsequently  
reopened on August 26, 2003 (68 FR  
51232), for an additional 30-days. A  
"Notice of Intent to Prepare an  
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  
and Notice of Scoping Process" (NOI)  
was published in the **Federal Register**  
on October 20, 2003 (68 FR 59906) and  
public meetings were held in nine  
Atlantic coast states between November  
5 - December 10, 2003, and the public  
comment period closed on December  
22, 2003.

Significant time has passed since the  
nine initial scoping hearings.  
Accordingly, NMFS thought it prudent  
to seek additional scoping on its  
preliminary draft analyses of Federal  
management options to open the EEZ to  
the harvest of Atlantic Striped Bass.  
NMFS, therefore, re-opened the scoping  
process in a **Federal Register** Notice on  
April 24, 2006 (71 FR 20984) and  
established a 30 day public comment  
period. NMFS believes that extending  
the comment period an additional 30  
days would provide the public a more  
appropriate opportunity to provide  
meaningful commentary on the agency's  
list of potential alternatives and other  
management measures. See **ADDRESSES**  
for information on how to obtain a copy  
of the draft document and where to send  
comments.

#### Background

Atlantic striped bass management is  
based on ASMFC's Atlantic Striped Bass  
Interstate Fishery Management Plan  
(ISFMP), first adopted in 1981. From  
1981 - 1994, four ISFMP Amendments  
were developed that provided a series of  
management measures that led to the  
rebuilding of the stocks. In 1995,  
ASMFC declared the Atlantic striped  
bass population fully restored and  
implemented Amendment 5 to the  
ISFMP to perpetuate the stock so as to  
allow a commercial and recreational  
harvest consistent with the long-term  
maintenance of the striped bass stock.  
Since then the population has expanded  
to record levels of abundance. To  
maintain this recovered population,  
ASMFC approved Amendment 6 in  
February 2003 (copies of Amendment 6

are available via ASMFC's website  
under *Interstate Fisheries Management-  
striped bass* at <http://www.asmfc.org>).  
ASMFC believes that the measures  
contained in Amendment 6 are  
necessary to prevent the overfishing of  
the Atlantic striped bass resource while  
allowing growth in both the commercial  
and recreational fishery. Development  
of Amendment 6 took almost 4 years  
and involved extensive input from  
technical and industry advisors, and  
provided numerous opportunities for  
the public to comment on the future  
management of the species.

Amendment 6 incorporates results of  
the 2001 Atlantic striped bass stock  
assessment, developed by the Atlantic  
Coast States, ASMFC, NMFS, and the  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see  
section 1.2.2 of Amendment 6 for  
summary). Amendment 6 also included  
recommendations to the Secretary on  
the development of complementary  
measures in the EEZ. Management of  
Atlantic striped bass in the EEZ was one  
of the issues that was considered  
throughout development of Amendment  
6.

#### Recommendation to the Secretary

In addition to the recommendations to  
the Secretary in Amendment 6, the  
Secretary also received a letter on April  
24, 2003, from ASMFC with the  
following three recommendations for  
implementation of regulations in the  
EEZ: (1) Remove the moratorium on the  
harvest of Atlantic striped bass in the  
EEZ; (2) implement a 28-inch (71.1-cm)  
minimum size limit for recreational and  
commercial Atlantic striped bass  
fisheries in the EEZ; and (3) allow states  
the ability to adopt more restrictive  
rules for fishermen and vessels licensed  
in their jurisdictions.

In support of its request, ASMFC cited  
a number of reasons, including: ASMFC  
declared the striped bass stock restored  
in 1995; commercial harvest is  
controlled by individual state quotas;  
with the EEZ closed striped bass caught  
there are required to be discarded, and  
are often dead when thrown back -  
Opening the EEZ will convert some of  
the discarded bycatch of striped bass to  
landings; and Amendment 6  
incorporates measures that would  
address future concerns about the stock  
status. See **ADDRESSES** for information  
on how to obtain a copy of the NOI,  
which has a complete list of ASMFC's  
cited reasons.

ASMFC also stated that its Atlantic  
Striped Bass Technical Committee  
would monitor annually the Atlantic  
striped bass population, and, if at some  
point in the future ASMFC determines  
that the Atlantic striped bass population