

observer program through a Council-approved Federal regulatory framework. Details of how observer coverage will be distributed across the West Coast groundfish fleet will be described in an observer coverage plan that is appropriate to the purpose of the particular observer program goals. An observer coverage plan designed for a scientific data collection program will likely be different from an observer coverage plan designed for a sector- or vessel-specific total catch monitoring program. NMFS will publish an announcement of the authorization of the observer program and description of the observer coverage plan in the **Federal Register**. In July 2006, NMFS updated its Observer Coverage Plan to reflect changes in the goals and methodologies of the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP). The new plan may be obtained from the individuals listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, or from the website listed under the Electronic Access section.

Amendment 14 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP was first implemented via a final rule published in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 2002 (67 FR 10490). On March 2, 2006, NMFS issued a final rule to implement further provisions of Amendment 14 (71 FR 10614). To ensure that shoreside processing plants would continue to have access to sablefish landed during the primary sablefish fishery, Amendment 14 had included a provision that prohibits vessels from processing their sablefish at sea. To acknowledge the previous investment that some vessels owners may have made in on-board freezing and processing equipment, Amendment 14 implementing regulations allowed a one-time opportunity for vessels to apply for an exemption from the prohibition on at-sea processing. During the summer of 2006, NMFS completed the application and review process for an exemption from the prohibition, as provided for in Federal regulations at 50 CFR 660.334 (e). One vessel, F/V OSSIAN, qualified for the exemption. The sablefish at-sea processing exemption is associated with the F/V OSSIAN itself, not with the vessel owner's limited entry permit, and may not be transferred to any other vessel, vessel owner, or permit owner for any reason.

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

Dated: January 9, 2007.

James P. Burgess,

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

[FR Doc. E7-461 Filed 1-12-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010507B]

Endangered Species; File No. 1486

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for modification of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Harold M. Brundage, Environmental Research and Consulting Inc., PMB #781, 873 East Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348, has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1486.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before February 15, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The modification request 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)281-9300; fax (978)281-9394.

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 modification 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 the e-mail

comment the following document identifier: File No. 1486.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brandy Hutnak or Malcolm Mohead, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification to Permit No. 1486, issued on December 22, 2004 (69 FR 77998) is requested under the authority of 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. 1486 authorizes the permit holder to capture, measure, weigh, Floy T-bar tag, PIT tag, fin clip, and release 1750 juvenile and adult shortnose sturgeon in the Lower Delaware River/Estuary. A subset of 30 juvenile and 30 adult shortnose sturgeon may be internally implanted with an ultrasonic tag, in addition to a subset of 24 (juveniles and adults) that may be visually assessed (externally), anesthetized (MS-222), laparoscopically evaluated (coelomic cavity), have blood collected, and a biopsy of the gonads taken (if the sex is unclear). The permit holder now requests authorization to locate and document occurrences of early life stages (eggs and larvae) of shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River. Specific goals of this additional research are to: (1) document occurrences of shortnose sturgeon eggs and larvae and their specific habitats in the Delaware River; (2) incorporate occurrence information into the Endangered and Nongame Species Program's Biotics database and Riparian Landscape Project database; and (3) identify critical habitat and, if supported by the data collected, pursue critical area designation for shortnose sturgeon spawning and nursery areas. Up to 1,000 eggs and 1,000 larvae would be taken during three consecutive spawning seasons (March - May) over the remainder of the permit, which expires on January 31, 2010. Shortnose sturgeon eggs and larvae would be collected by the following methods: (1) artificial substrates - these will consist of floor buffing pads that are anchored to the river bottom; (2) passive ichthyoplankton nets - these nets will be 0.5 m in diameter and will be set downstream of probable spawning locations on the river bottom for approximately 1-3 hours; (3) epibenthic sled - this sled will be fitted with an ichthyoplankton net and towed in locations suitable for such gear; and (4) pump sampling - water is pumped from the river, via a suction hose, and filtered through a 0.5 mm plankton net.

Dated: January 5, 2007.

Tammy C. Adams,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E7-368 Filed 1-12-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0957]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Assessment of Materials and Equipment Manual

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability with request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are announcing for public comment the availability of a draft document, entitled the "Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Assessment of Materials and Equipment Manual" (MARSAME). MARSAME provides information on planning, conducting, evaluating, and documenting radiological surveys for demonstrating compliance with measurable action levels. MARSAME, when finalized, will be a multi-agency consensus document. The agencies are seeking public comment in order to receive feedback from the widest range of interested parties and to ensure that all information relevant to developing the document is received. The agencies will review public comments received on the draft MARSAME as well as comments from a concurrent, independent, scientific peer review. Suggested changes will be incorporated, where appropriate, in response to those comments.

DATES: The comment period closes on April 16, 2007. Comments received after that date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but no assurance can be given for consideration of late comments.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments by one of the methods:

- <http://www.regulations.gov>: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

- <http://www.marsame.org>: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

- **Mail:** Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460 or Chief, Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch, Division of Administrative Services, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

- **Hand Delivery:** Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements must be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Copies of all comments received by one agency will be periodically copied and sent to the others. Copies of the draft MARSAME and all comments received may be examined or copied for a fee electronically in <http://www.regulations.gov>, or in hard copy at the HQ EPA Docket Public Reading Room, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0957, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, and the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852-2747. The HQ EPA Docket Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the EPA HQ Docket Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744. DOE, EPA, and NRC each have a publication number for MARSAME. They are: for DOE, DOE/EH-707; for EPA, EPA 402-R-06-002; for NRC, NUREG-1575, Sup. 1. A free single copy of the draft MARSAME may be requested by writing to: the Distribution and Mail Services Section, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001 or by fax to (301) 415-2289. The document is also available through the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/marssim>.

Instructions for Using the EPA Docket: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0957. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential

Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through www.regulations.gov. The www.regulations.gov Web site is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. All documents in the docket are listed in the www.regulations.gov index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, will be publicly available only in hard copy.

Instructions for Using the MARSAME comment Web site: Alternatively, you may submit a comment via the <http://www.marsame.org> comment system without going through www.regulations.gov. Users of the MARSAME comment Web site will be asked for their name and e-mail address, and then will receive a username and password at the e-mail address that was submitted. User's names and e-mail address will not appear in any public document or database.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any of the following points of contact for each agency for technical information (See **ADDRESSES** section above for directions on obtaining a copy of the draft MARSAME.): DoD: Steven Doremus, Phone: (757) 887-7745, U.S. Navy, NAVSEADET RASO, NWS, PO Drawer 260, Yorktown, VA 23691-0260; DOE: W. Alexander Williams, Phone: (301) 903-8149, U.S. Department of Energy (EM-23), 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; EPA: Kathryn Snead; Phone: (202) 343-9228, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Stop 6608J, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460-1000; NRC: Robert A. Meck, Phone: (301) 415-6205, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T9-C39, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Questions concerning the multi-agency document development