

Plan (FMP). The Council will consider alternatives and provide final approval on issues related to area rotation, specifications for trip and days-at-sea allocations in 2006 and 2007, a streamlined procedure to adjust the Elephant Trunk Area and open area allocations in 2007, the general category scallop fishery, crew size limits on controlled area access trips and a new bycatch data collection and monitoring program. Also included will be changes in controlled access area trip exchanges, the broken trip limit exemption program and the research set-aside program. Consideration of Framework Adjustment 18 is likely to take most of the day on Wednesday.

#### Thursday, September 15, 2005

There will be a presentation of the assessment summary from the 41st Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop. Species to be addressed include summer flounder, bluefish and tilefish. This will be followed by a report on a video monitoring pilot study that explores alternative means to supplement and complement observer activities on fishing vessels. The Council also will discuss and consider establishing a control date for party and charter boats in the multispecies fishery, as recommended by the its Recreational Fishing Advisory Panel. During the remainder of the day the Council will take further action on Framework Adjustment 42 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP by identifying additional measures to be analyzed and further considered in the action. These will include the Category B (regular) days-at-sea pilot program, a formal rebuilding program for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder with associated measures, a standardized bycatch reporting methodology, and possible modifications to the rolling closures now in effect to reduce groundfish fishing mortality. The Transboundary Management Guidance Committee is scheduled to ask for approval of its recommendations for the 2006 total allowable catches for cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder in a specific area of Georges Bank that is governed by the U.S./Canada Resource Sharing Understanding. Prior to addressing any other outstanding business, the Council will consider and possibly approve retaining the 2005 herring specifications through the 2006 fishing year.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any

issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 19, 2005.

#### Emily Menashes,

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

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### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080205C]

#### Endangered Species; File No. 1527

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

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

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the John A. Musick, Ph.D., Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), Gloucester Point, VA 23062, has applied in due form for a permit to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before September 23, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** 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, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and

Northeast Regional Office, 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, 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 e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1527.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patrick Opay or Shane Guan, (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 purpose of the proposed research is to study loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, green, and hawksbill sea turtles in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay (Bay), and the Virginia (VA) and Maryland (MD) tributaries to the Bay to identify relative abundance over time; detect changes in sea turtle size and age composition; monitor and document movement and migration patterns; and to study sea turtle interactions with whelk pot gear. The applicant proposes to take up to 100 loggerhead, 30 Kemp's ridley, 10 leatherback, 10 green, and 5 hawksbill sea turtles each year over the course of a 5-year permit. Of the 100 loggerhead turtles taken annually, 74 would be taken in VA waters, and the remaining 26 would be taken in MD waters. Likewise, the numbers by state of the other species are: 22 Kemp's ridleys from VA and 8 from MD; 7 leatherbacks from VA and 3 from MD; 7 greens from VA and 3 from MD; and 3 hawksbills from VA and 2 from MD. Seventy-one of the loggerhead, 21 of the Kemp's ridley, 7 of the leatherback, 7 of the green, and 3 of the hawksbill sea turtles are expected to be caught in pound nets. The remaining turtles would be captured utilizing relocation trawls as part of dredging activities authorized under separate permits and then turned over to the applicant. All turtles would be blood sampled, measured, weighed when practicable, flipper tagged, and PIT tagged. A subset of these animals would have satellite or

radio/sonic transmitters attached to their carapace, and would be laparoscoped and bone biopsied. Twenty loggerheads would be used in a whelk gear bycatch reduction study.

Dated: August 18, 2005.

**Steve Leathery,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990907250-5223-03; I.D. 072905B]

#### Revised Guidelines for NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program

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

**ACTION:** Request for comments on proposed revisions to Program Guidelines for the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS initiated a Community-based Restoration Program (Program) in 1996 that provides Federal financial and technical assistance to encourage locally led coastal and marine habitat restoration, and to promote stewardship and conservation values for NOAA trust resources. The Program is a systematic national effort to foster partnerships at national, regional and local levels to implement sound habitat restoration. Partnerships are forged between government, not-for-profit organizations, community groups, recreational and commercial fishing organizations, students and educational institutions, businesses, youth conservation corps and private landowners. Under the Program, partners may contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support or other in-kind services; promote local participation in habitat restoration activities; undertake research and monitoring to evaluate and improve project success; and facilitate stewardship for restored resources at the local level. To date, the Program has funded more than 1000 community-based habitat restoration projects in 27 states, Canada, and the Caribbean. NMFS is issuing revised guidelines for Program implementation for FY 2006 and beyond, to reflect the evolution of the program since its original

implementation. NMFS is seeking comments from interested parties on the revised guidelines. One or more constituent meetings are also planned to solicit feedback on the Program and the revised Program guidelines. This is not a solicitation of project proposals.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted by email or mail by October 11, 2005. To support the continued evolution of the Program, and as part of the Program Guidelines revision, the Restoration Center plans to solicit feedback through one or more constituent meetings. Meetings will be limited to approximately 30 participants and will include facilitated break-out group discussions to maximize feedback results. The first meeting will be held on September 13, 2005, in Washington D.C. Subsequent meetings will be planned to coincide with restoration-related conferences or meetings throughout 2006 to enable constituent participation without travel. These meetings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for more information regarding the September meeting, including registration and requests for sign language or other auxiliary aids, should be directed to Robin Bruckner (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**ADDRESSES:** Please send your comments by email to: [CRP.Guidelines@noaa.gov](mailto:CRP.Guidelines@noaa.gov), or by mail to: Director, NOAA Restoration Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway (F/HC3), Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robin Bruckner, (301) 713-0174, or by e-mail at [Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov](mailto:Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Proposed Guidelines for the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program were provided at 64 FR 53339, October 1, 1999. In that document, comments were sought on modifications to the Program that would allow greater flexibility to support community-based habitat restoration projects. Final Program Guidelines, including responses to comments, were provided at 65 FR 16890, March 30, 2000. Since the Guidelines were issued, the Program has experienced an increase in base funding and has subsequently implemented increased numbers of locally initiated, grass-roots habitat restoration projects through partnerships at the local, regional and national levels. The NOAA Restoration Center within NMFS is issuing revised guidelines, proposed here, that reflect the evolution of the Program, including measures that are in place or planned to enable the Program

to demonstrate increased accountability for the expenditure of public dollars.

#### Background

Habitat loss and degradation threaten the long-term sustainability of the nation's fishery resources. Over 75 percent of commercial fisheries and 80 to 90 percent of recreational marine and diadromous fishes depend on estuarine or coastal habitats for all or part of their life cycles. Protecting existing, undamaged habitat is a priority and should be combined with coastal habitat restoration to enhance the functionality of degraded habitat. Restored coastal habitat will help rebuild fisheries stocks and recover threatened and endangered species. Restoring marine and coastal habitats will help ensure that valuable natural resources will be available to future generations of Americans.

The purpose of this document is to replace the Program Guidelines that were published in 2000, and outline the goals, objectives, and structure of the Program that will guide its implementation in FY 2006 and beyond. This notice also references changes made by NOAA to standardize evaluation criteria for its competitive grant programs. The Program will provide annual notification regarding the availability of funds through the NOAA Omnibus **Federal Register** Notice process and associated Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) detail, and will solicit project proposals once a year, or more.

#### Electronic Access

Information on the Program, including partnerships and projects that have been funded to date, can be found on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>.

#### Overview of Changes to the Program

Since the Program began, Congressional appropriations have increased from \$250,000 in 1999 to \$13.6 million in 2005. To effectively manage this growth, to provide better service to constituents, and to accurately report on the Program's accomplishments, the Restoration Center has changed some of its practices and implemented a number of tools to increase efficiency and accountability.

In 2001 a Restoration Center database was launched to track habitat acres created, established, rehabilitated, enhanced or protected; stream miles made accessible to diadromous fish; volunteer or community participation hours; restoration techniques used; habitat types and species benefited; and other parameters for Restoration Center supported projects. The database has