

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for a scientific research permit; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the receipt of a request for a scientific research permit (SRP) to track the survival and movement of highly migratory species (HMS) with satellite pop-up tags in the Atlantic Ocean, specifically the Charleston Bump and adjacent areas. NMFS invites comments from interested parties on this SRP request.

**DATES:** Written comments on the application for a scientific research permit must be received by 5 p.m. on January 26, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Email: [SF1.121905B@noaa.gov](mailto:SF1.121905B@noaa.gov).

Include in the subject line the following identifier: I.D. 121905B.

- Mail: Margo Schulze-Haugen, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Please mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on SRP Application."

- Fax: (301)427-2593.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Megan Caldwell, by phone: (301)713-2347; fax: (301)713-1917.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** SRPs are requested and issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and/or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 635.32 govern scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity with respect to Atlantic HMS.

Since 2000, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR) has requested the authorization of an SRP for the collection, tagging, and release of several HMS in the Charleston Bump area to monitor survival rates and movement patterns; the same request has been submitted for 2006. The proposed sampling would occur no further north than 30°00 N., 75°00 W. and no further south than 35°00 N. and 75°00 W., specifically focusing collection efforts in the Charleston Bump area. The research would be conducted from February through December 2006, during both the closed (February 1 to April 30) and open seasons. Operations would be conducted during the closed season to reduce gear conflicts. Additionally, for the past several years, this research typically coincided with the closure because the state-owned research vessel

is rigged for longline sampling in the first several months of the year.

Species likely to be tagged while conducting research in this area are swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), night sharks (*Carcharhinus signatus*), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), dusky sharks (*Carcharhinus obscurus*), bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*), and thresher sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*).

For each fish tagged, researchers will record species, estimated length and weight, GPS location, sea surface temperature, and any other data archived by the tag. Over the past three years, the average number of incidental mortalities that occurred during this research project were 14 swordfish, five scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), four night sharks, two silky sharks, two yellowfin tuna, one blackfin tuna (*Thunnus atlanticus*), and one sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*). For all incidental mortalities, data would be collected, such as length, weight, DNA samples, contaminant samples, aging samples, and gonad samples.

Research would be conducted onboard a bonafide research vessel owned by the State of South Carolina. Collection of HMS would occur with pelagic longline gear divided into two sections with 60 16/0 non-offset circle hooks, totaling six nautical miles in length and 120 hooks. All hooks would be baited with whole finfish and/or squid. Green chemical light sticks may be attached to the gangions. The soak time would be no longer than four hours.

While sea turtle interactions are not anticipated and have not occurred in the past, sea turtle handling and release equipment and instructions will be onboard the vessel at all times while engaged in this research activity. Additionally, one individual of the research team is trained and experienced in sea turtle handling and release techniques.

In past years, this research was categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare either an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. This action was categorically excluded because it was of limited size and magnitude and would not have significant effects individually or cumulatively on the environment. As noted above, limited numbers of incidental mortalities occurred while

conducting this research over the past several years. All mortalities of sharks and swordfish were counted against the respective quota. Further, all fish tagged were to be released alive, with minimal or no post release mortality anticipated. If any animals died during the collection and/or tagging process, age structures (otoliths) and reproductive tissues were allowed to be sampled. If an SRP were to be issued, the number of incidental mortalities would be limited to ten animals per species. Any mortalities beyond this amount would need an additional authorization. This SRP, if issued, is issued, would involve the same research activity as in past years.

This research may benefit all interested parties by providing fishery managers with additional data necessary to consider the importance of the Charleston Bump ecosystem in the management and conservation of HMS in the Atlantic Ocean.

The regulations that would prohibit the proposed activities include requirements for permits and fees (50 CFR 635.4), size limits (50 CFR 635.20), gear operation and deployment (50 CFR 635.21), commercial quotas (50 CFR 635.27), and closures (50 CFR 635.28).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 29, 2005.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation"), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial

resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirement on respondents can be properly assessed.

Currently, the Corporation is soliciting comments on its proposed "Application for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll" which will involve the collection of information from institutions of higher education concerning their community service-related activities. This information will provide the basis for a national honor roll and awards program intended to promote awareness of higher education community service efforts and to inspire expanded and more effective service efforts. In support of the Universities Rebuilding America Program (discussed below), this application and data collection include sections on the service activities of institutions of higher education, their students, faculty and staff, in response to the significant devastation caused by this last year's Atlantic and Gulf hurricanes. Copies of the information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the individual and office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section by March 6, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by the title of the information collection activity, by any of the following methods:

(1) By mail sent to: Corporation for National and Community Service, Learn and Serve America; Attention: Amy Cohen, Director, Room 9603; 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20525. Please note that because we are experiencing significant delays in receiving U.S. Mail, you may wish to consider alternative mail services.

(2) By hand delivery or by courier to: the Corporation's mailroom at Room 8100 at the mail address given in paragraph (1) above, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

(3) By fax to: (202) 606-3477, Attention: Amy Cohen.

(4) Electronically through the Corporation's e-mail address system: [acohen@cns.gov](mailto:acohen@cns.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Cohen, (202) 606-6927, or by e-mail at [acohen@cns.gov](mailto:acohen@cns.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Corporation is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Corporation, including

whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Propose ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Propose ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are expected to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses).

**Background:** The Corporation is the lead Federal agency for the coordination and support of voluntary national and community service by citizens and non-profit agencies.

Recognizing that community service and civic engagement are among the historic missions of most colleges and universities, the Corporation's Board of Directors recently identified Strategic Plan targets that include significant increases: in the number of college students performing community service, in the use of service-learning in higher education, and, in particular, in the number of students providing tutoring and other services to youth from disadvantaged circumstances designed to promote high school completion and college access. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and Awards program will support these Strategic Plan efforts.

On November 1, 2005, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Alphonso Jackson, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, David Eisner, announced the Universities Rebuilding America Partnership (URAP), an initiative offering funding and other resources to empower college and university students, faculty, and staff to lend their skills in rebuilding the Gulf Coast in response to the devastation caused by the hurricanes of 2005. As part of this initiative, the Corporation and the Department are creating a URAP Honor Roll and Awards Program to recognize higher education communities for their contributions to the recovery and rebuilding efforts.

**Current Action:** This annual application/ information collection from higher education institutions will provide information about student, faculty, staff, and institutional community service and civic engagement activities, including those in response to the recent hurricane

emergencies. The selection of colleges and universities for recognition under the URAP Honor Roll and Awards program, as well as under the broader President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and Award program, will be based on information provided in this application and information collection. The initial deadline for institutions to submit applications for these programs is June 30, 2006. It is expected that a similar application/ information collection activity will be repeated annually, with a similar annual deadline.

Information collected from applicant higher education institutions will include: descriptions of specific student, staff, and faculty community service projects; data on the scope and impacts of service projects; estimates of the number of enrolled students participating in community service activities—both overall and in response to the hurricane-related disruptions of 2005; and information on institutional supports for service such as academic service-learning opportunities, community service coordination offices, and scholarships and other benefits in recognition of student service.

*Type of Review:* New.

*Agency:* Corporation for National and Community Service.

*Title:* Application for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

*OMB Number:* None.

*Agency Number:* None.

*Affected Public:* U.S. degree-granting colleges and universities.

*Total Respondents:* 4,236 higher education institutions.

*Frequency:* Annual.

*Average Time Per Response:* 1 hour.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 4,236 hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* None.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* None.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 30, 2005.

**Elson Nash,**

*Associate Director for Project Management, Learn and Serve America.*

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**BILLING CODE 6050--\$-P**