

environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required.

Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

*The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements:* The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), are applicable to this solicitation.

*Paperwork Reduction Act:* This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the respective control numbers 4040-004, 4040-006, 0348-0040, and 0348-0046. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

*Executive Order 12866:* This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

*Executive Order 13132 (Federalism):* It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

*Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act:* Prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for rules

concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements for the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

Dated: November 6, 2009.

**Mark E. Brown,**

*Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XS82**

#### Endangered Species; File No. 14634

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Douglas Peterson, Ph.D., Warnell School of Forest Resources (Fisheries Division), University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, has been issued a permit to take shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit 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)713-0376; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Malcolm Mohead or Jennifer Skidmore, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 8, 2009, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 51836) that a request for a scientific research permit to take shortnose sturgeon had been submitted by the above-named individual. 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).

The purpose of the proposed research is to maintain and conduct research on 95 hatchery-reared shortnose sturgeon at the University of Georgia to meet the following objectives: (1) quantify differences in the environmental tolerances of northern versus southern range shortnose sturgeon, and (2) evaluate ontogenetic changes in the environmental tolerances of juvenile shortnose sturgeon. The fish will be obtained from the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery and Regional Fisheries Center (USFWS), Warm Springs, Georgia 31830, under NMFS Permit 1604. Using a series of replicated laboratory (lethal and non-lethal) experiments, the researcher will evaluate the individual, additive, and interactive effects of the three habitat variables most critical in determining summer habitat quality for both juveniles and adult shortnose sturgeon: maximum water temperature, maximum salinity, and minimum concentration of dissolved oxygen. Researchers will also examine how environmental tolerances of shortnose sturgeon change with age and conditioning (chronic exposure). Future scientific research with these fish will involve studies of nutrition, tagging, physiology, environmental tolerance, contaminants, fish health, behavioral, tagging, genetics, and fish culture techniques. The permit does not authorize any takes from the wild, nor does it authorize any release of captive sturgeon into the wild.

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

Dated: November 6, 2009.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

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