

Dated: May 12, 2015.

Donna S. Wieting,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2015-11903 Filed 5-15-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council's) Cooperative Research Committee will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., via internet webinar.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar with a telephone-only connection option.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255. The Council's Web site, www.mafmc.org will have details on the proposed agenda, webinar access, and briefing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In August 2014, the Council voted to suspend the Research Set-Aside (RSA) program for 2015 in order to address a range of issues, including abuse of the program and inconsistencies in the quality and usefulness of RSA-funded research. During this period of suspension, staff is working with the RSA Committee and Council to identify potential cooperative research approaches that will enable the Council to achieve these goals more effectively.

During this meeting the Cooperative Research Committee will discuss a revised action plan and specific next steps for the ongoing review and restructuring of the Council's involvement in cooperative research. The Committee's recommendations will be reviewed by the full Council at its meeting on June 8-11, in Virginia Beach, VA.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come

before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Webinar and phone connection information, a detailed agenda, and any briefing materials will be posted at www.mafmc.org prior to the meeting.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 13, 2015.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD776

Endangered Species; File No. 19281

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Isaac Wirgin, New York University School of Medicine, Department of Environmental Medicine, 57 Old Forge Road, Tuxedo, NY 10987, has applied in due form for a permit to take early life stages (ELS) of endangered, captive shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before June 17, 2015.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for

Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 19281 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Malcolm Mohead or Rosa L. González, (301) 427-8401.

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 parts 222-226).

In directed research with shortnose sturgeon ELS, researchers propose to define the toxic concentrations of the industrial contaminants polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) and Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD). Twenty-thousand fertilized embryos of shortnose sturgeon would be imported annually from a Canadian captive source and exposed (2 to 3-day post-fertilization) to graded doses of the above contaminants. The laboratory tests would be run both singly and in combination with 10 different temperatures or varying levels of dissolved oxygen, representing environmental stresses. Surviving progeny would be euthanized after tests are completed each year. The permit would be valid for five years from issuance date.

Dated: May 12, 2015.

Julia Harrison,

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

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