

types of information that may prove useful to NMFS include:

- Documentation (photographs, etc.) of IUU activity or fishing vessels engaged in PLMR bycatch or catch of sharks on the high seas;
  - Documentation (photographs, etc.) of fishing vessels engaged in shared PLMR bycatch in any waters beyond the U.S. EEZ;
  - Fishing vessel records;
  - Trade data supporting evidence that a nation's vessels are engaged in shark catch on the high seas;
  - Reports from off-loading facilities, port-side government officials, enforcement agents, military personnel, port inspectors, transshipment vessel workers and fish importers;
  - Sightings of vessels included on RFMO IUU vessel lists;
  - RFMO catch documents and statistical document programs;
  - Nation's domestic regulations for bycatch and shark conservation and management;
  - Action or inaction at the national level, resulting in non-compliance with RFMO conservation and management measures, such as exceeding quotas or catch limits, or failing to report or misreporting data of the nation's fishing activities; and
  - Reports from governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.
- NMFS will consider all available information, as appropriate, when making a determination whether or not to identify a particular nation in the biennial report to Congress. As stated previously, NMFS is limited in the data it may use as the basis of a nation's identification. This information includes IUU fishing activity and bycatch of PLMRs in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and shark fishing activity in waters beyond any national jurisdiction in 2016. Information should be as specific as possible as this will assist NMFS in its review. NMFS will consider several criteria when determining whether information is appropriate for use in making identifications, including:
- Corroboration of information;
  - Whether multiple sources have been able to provide information in support of an identification;
  - The methodology used to collect the information;
  - Specificity of the information provided;
  - Susceptibility of the information to falsification and alteration; and
  - Credibility of the individuals or organization providing the information.

Dated: March 3, 2016.

**John Henderschedt,**

*Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XE469**

#### Endangered Species; File No. 19627

**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 NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Room 207, Miami, FL 33149 [Responsible Party: Dr. Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.], has applied in due form for a permit to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and unidentified hardshell sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before April 7, 2016.

**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. 19627 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](mailto: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:

Arturo Herrera or Amy Hapeman, (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).

The applicant requests a five-year permit to research sea turtles that interact with commercial fisheries and other authorized activities in the Gulf of Mexico and East Coast of the United States. The purpose of the project is to: (1) Monitor the take of sea turtles by observed fisheries, (2) collect data that can enhance efforts to estimate total bycatch and the effects of bycatch on the sea turtle subpopulations, (3) and document interactions at various life stages to help in the recovery process of these species. Researchers would be authorized to handle, photograph, measure, weigh, flipper and passive integrated transponder tag, tissue sample, temporary carapace mark, and salvage specimens legally taken during commercial fishing activities. Up to 86 green, 571 loggerhead, 165 Kemp's ridley, 77 hawksbill, 253 leatherback, 20 olive ridley, and 14 unidentified sea turtles would be sampled annually.

Dated: March 2, 2016.

**Julia Harrison,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Coastal Ocean Program Grants Proposal Application Package

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information