

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 100404E]

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a joint public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a joint meeting of its Habitat Advisory Panel (AP) and Coral AP to further the Council's integrated process to update Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) information and consider ecosystem-based management through the development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the South Atlantic Region.

**DATES:** The joint meeting will take place October 25–29, 2004. On October 25, 2004, sessions will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. Sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on October 26–28, 2004, and from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. on October 29, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Francis Marion Hotel, 387 King Street, Charleston, SC, 29401; telephone: (877) 756–2121 or (843) 722–0600.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (843) 571–4366 or (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Items for discussion at the joint meeting include: (1) review and approval of the Draft Research and Monitoring Plan for the Oculina Closed Area; (2) discussion of preliminary Draft Research and Monitoring Plan for Deepwater Coral Ecosystems in the South Atlantic; (3) discussion of potential deepwater coral sites for Coral-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern C-HAPC designation; (4) review and update of policies protecting EFH from the impacts of non-fishing activities in the South Atlantic region, and (5) discussion of Council's Action Plan to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to management including timeframe of development for the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by October 22, 2004.

Dated: October 5, 2004.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 092004E]

**Endangered Species; File No. 1501 and File No. 1506**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of applications for permits.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the following individuals have applied in due form for permits to conduct scientific research on endangered and threatened sea turtles: Dr. Allen M. Foley, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Jacksonville Field Laboratory, 6134 Authority Avenue, Building 200, Jacksonville, Florida 32221 (File No. 1501); and Dr. Blair E. Witherington, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Melbourne Beach Field Laboratory, 9700 South A1A, Melbourne Beach, Florida 32951 (File No. 1506).

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before November 8, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The applications 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, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702–2432; phone (727) 570–5301; fax (727) 570–5320.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on the particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713–0376, 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*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: either File No. 1501 or File No. 1506.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jennifer Jefferies or Patrick Opay, (301) 713–2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permits are 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).

File No. 1501: Dr. Foley seeks authorization to capture and track loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles for two separate projects in Florida Bay. The first project would continue an on-going long-term study of all four species in which, annually, up to 175 adult and juvenile loggerheads, 20 adult and juvenile greens, 20 adult and juvenile Kemp's ridley, and 10 adult and juvenile hawksbill sea turtles would be captured by hand, measured, weighed, examined for tumors, photographed, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) and flipper tagged, blood sampled, marked on the carapace with a white laminating gel and subsequently released. The loggerhead sea turtles would also have a skin sample taken. This work would be conducted for five years from permit issuance during the