

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Non-Commercial Permit and Reporting Requirements in the Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Fishery**

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on August 24, 2020, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service.

Title: Non-commercial Permit and Reporting Requirements in the Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Fishery.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0577.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular submission (extension of a currently approved collection).

Number of Respondents: 100.

Average Hours per Response: 15 minutes per permit application; 2 hours per appeal of denied permit; 20 minutes per logbook form.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 69.

Needs and Uses: Each boat-based non-commercial fisherman and vessel owner who fishes for bottomfish management unit and ecosystem component species in the federal waters of the main Hawaiian Islands must obtain a non-commercial bottomfish fishing permit from the NMFS or hold a State of Hawaii Commercial Marine License. Each permitted vessel owner or operator must submit a logsheet report after the conclusion of every fishing trip. The permit is required for all vessel owners, operators, and fishermen. The information from the permit and logsheet are used by NMFS, the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, and federal enforcement agencies to monitor and manage the fishery.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: As required.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: 50 CFR 665.

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648-0577.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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

[RTID 0648-XA721]

Endangered Species; File No. 23861

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) (No. 23861) to Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, for the incidental take of shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), Gulf of Main Distinct population segment (GOM DPS) Atlantic sturgeon, or the New York Bight (NYB DPS) of Atlantic sturgeon. (*A. oxyrinchus*) and the GOM DPS Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) associated with the otherwise lawful sampling of non-ESA listed fish in the Lower Kennebec River. The permit is issued for a duration of 10 years.

ADDRESSES: The incidental take permit, final environmental assessment, and other related documents are available on the NMFS Office of Protected Resources website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-permit-midwest-biodiversity-institute>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Celeste Stout, phone: (301) 427-8436 or email: celeste.stout@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the 'taking' of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The ESA defines "take" to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS may issue permits, under limited circumstances to take listed species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA provides for authorizing incidental take of listed species. NMFS regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are promulgated at 50 CFR 222.307.

Background

NMFS received a permit application from MBI on January 31, 2020. Based on our initial review of the application and conservation plan, we requested further information and clarification. On March 30, 2020, MBI submitted a revised and complete application for the take of ESA-listed shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon and Atlantic salmon due to the sampling of non-ESA listed fish in the Lower Kennebec River. MBI proposes to continue an 18 yearlong (2002-19) systematic assessment of the fish assemblages at seven sites in an approximate 17.5 mile (28.2 km) reach of the Lower Kennebec River and three sites in a 6 mile (9.7 km) reach of the Sebasticook River. MBI will conduct boat electrofishing where electric current is generated by a Smith-Root Generator Powered Pulsator and transmitted into the water by an electrode array suspended from the bow of 16-18 foot long (25-29 km) jon boats or a 16 foot long inflatable Wing raft. NMFS determined that the application contained sufficient information for review and consideration under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. NMFS then provided an opportunity for public review of MBI's application and Conservation Plan. On April 17, 2020, NMFS published a notice of receipt (NOR) of the MBI application in the **Federal Register** (85 FR 21413). The comment period ended on May 18, 2020 and six comments were received. Two of these comments did not pertain to the notice and four were considered relevant. Two of these comments consisted of uploaded letters. The first was from the Maine Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the Maine Council of Trout Unlimited and the second was from The Nature