

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

[I.D. 072301A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings of the Shrimp Advisory Panel (AP) and the Standing and Special Shrimp Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

DATES: The AP will meet on August 13, 2001, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude by 2:30 p.m. The SSC will meet on August 13, 2001, beginning at 3 p.m. and will conclude by 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the New Orleans Airport Hilton, 901 Airline Highway, Kenner, Louisiana; telephone: 504-469-5000.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC and AP will meet to review and Draft Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Waters with Environmental Assessment, Regulatory Impact Review, Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, and Social Impact Assessment. This amendment contains alternatives for requiring additional measures to reduce bycatch in the shrimp fishery on the west coast of Florida, south and east of Cape San Blas (85°30' W. long.) Measures being considered include area and/or seasonal closures, as well as requiring bycatch reduction devices.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the SSC/AP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the SSC/AP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 action to address the emergency. Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by August 7, 2001.

Dated: July 23, 2001.

Theophilus Brainerd,

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

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

[I.D. 071801E]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit 1316; Issuance of modification #1 to permit 1299; and amendment #2 to permit 1133.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement under the Endangered Species Act (ESA): NMFS has issued permit 1316 to Dr. Jeff Schmid, of The Conservancy of Southwest Florida; NMFS has issued modification t1 to permit #1299 to Dr. Raymond Carthy, of the Florida Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit; and NMFS has issued amendment t2 to permit #1133 to Dr. Andre Landry of Texas A&M University at Galveston.

ADDRESSES: The permits, applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (phone: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Scientific research and/or enhancement permits are issued under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are covered in this notice:

Sea turtles

Threatened and endangered Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Endangered Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Endangered Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*)

Threatened Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Permits, Modified Permits and Amended Permits Issued*Permit #1316*

Notice was published on May 21, 2001 (66 FR 27940), that Dr. Jeff Schmid, Conservancy of Southwest Florida applied for a scientific research permit (1316). The goal of this research is to characterize the essential habitat associations of subadult Kemp's ridley turtles in the nearshore waters of the upper Ten Thousand Islands. The objectives are: (1) to monitor the movements of Kemp's ridley turtles via radio and sonic telemetry and to quantify their habitat utilization from the geographical position data, (2) to produce a geographic information system (GIS) database of benthic habitats and subsequently map the habitat types within the study area, and (3) to test for habitat preferences of Kemp's ridley turtles in this region by comparing the amount of time a turtle spends in a given habitat relative to the availability of all other habitat types. Permit 1316 authorizes the non-lethal take of 20 Kemp's ridley turtle. After capture, the turtles will be handled, measured, flipper and PIT tagged, have a radio/sonic transmitter attached and be released near the capture site. Permit 1316 was issued on July 19, 2001, and expires July 31, 2006.

Permit #1299

Dr. Raymond Carthy, of the Florida Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research