

The applicant proposes to study 34 cetacean species and four pinniped species in U.S waters of the Atlantic Ocean from Maine to Virginia. Researchers seek to (1) document marine mammal seasonal occurrence and distribution, (2) collect baseline data to maintain comparative long-term data sets to evaluate changes in species trends, and (3) identify and document natural and anthropogenic threats to marine mammals. Researchers would conduct manned aerial surveys and vessel surveys, including operation of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS), for counts, behavioral observations, photography, and photo-identification of marine mammals. Researchers would also conduct ground surveys of pinnipeds for counts, scat collection, remote video monitoring, observations, photography or photo-identification, and UAS operations. Take numbers for each species can be found in the application's take table. The permit would be valid for 5 years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: September 8, 2022.

**Julia M. Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022–19758 Filed 9–12–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC354]

#### Endangered Species; File No. 20528

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for a permit modification.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Bill Post, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412, has

requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 20528–03.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before October 13, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** The modification request 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. 20528 mod 11 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include File No. 20528 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Erin Markin, Ph.D., or Malcolm Mohead, (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject modification to Permit No. 20528–03, issued on February 28, 2022 (87 FR 22193, April 14, 2022) is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (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).

Permit No. 20528–03 authorizes the permit holder to conduct research on Atlantic (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) and shortnose (*A. brevirostrum*) sturgeon to determine their presence, status, health, habitat use, and movements in South Carolina waters. Researchers may use gill nets to capture Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon to measure, weigh, passive integrated transponder tag (PIT), dart tag, tissue sample, acoustically tag, fin ray sample, gonad biopsy, and photograph prior to release. A subset of Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon may receive internal acoustic transmitters. Early life stages of each species may be lethally sampled to document occurrence of spawning in systems. Up to two sturgeon of each species may unintentionally die annually during sampling activities. The permit holder requests authorization in the Edisto River to: (1) increase the number of adult/subadult shortnose sturgeon to be captured, PIT tagged, dart tagged, biologically sampled (tissue sample, fin

ray sample), measured, weighed, and photographed prior to release from 10 to 75, annually, and (2) increase the number of juvenile shortnose sturgeon to be captured, PIT tagged, dart tagged, biologically sampled (tissue sample, fin ray sample), measured, weighed, and photographed prior to release from 10 to 20, annually, to accommodate research efforts. The permit is valid through March 31, 2027.

Dated: September 6, 2022.

**Julia M. Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022–19766 Filed 9–12–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC358]

#### Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permits, permit amendments, and permit modifications.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that permits, permit amendments, and permit modifications have been issued to the following entities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applicable.

**ADDRESSES:** The permits and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Skidmore (Permit No. 26447), Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D. (Permit Nos. 20556–01 and 21476–02), Amy Hapeman (Permit No. 21233–04), and Sara Young (Permit No. 26314); at (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notices were published in the **Federal Register** on the dates listed below that requests for a permit, permit amendment, or permit modification had been submitted by the below-named applicants. To locate the **Federal Register** notice that announced our receipt of the application and a complete description of the activities, go to [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov) and search on the permit number provided in Table 1 below.