

DC 20055. In addition, such proposals must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*), 9 CFR parts 1, 2, and 3, and if appropriate, 21 CFR part 58. These regulations do not apply to proposed research using pre-existing images of animals or to research plans that do not include live animals that are being cared for, euthanized, or used by the project participants to accomplish research goals, teaching, or testing. These regulations also do not apply to obtaining animal materials from commercial processors of animal products or to animal cell lines or tissues from tissue banks.

**Limitation of Liability:** Funding for the programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations under The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110–161). In no event will the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige the agency to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. Funding of any award under any program announced in this notice is subject to the availability of funds.

**Executive Order 12866:** This funding notice was determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

**Executive Order 13132 (Federalism):** It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

**Executive Order 12372:** Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

**Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act:** Notice and comment are not required under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553 (a)). Because notice and comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)), a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required and has not been prepared for this notice, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*

Dated: January 22, 2008.

**Richard F. Kayser,**

*Acting Deputy Director, NIST.*

[FR Doc. E8–1334 Filed 1–24–08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–13–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket Number: 080107023–8025–01 ]

### Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) Gaithersburg and Boulder Programs; Availability of Funds

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces that the following programs are soliciting applications for financial assistance for FY 2008: (1) The Gaithersburg Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program, and (2) the Boulder Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. Each program will only consider applications that are within the scientific scope of the program as described in this notice and in the detailed program descriptions found in the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement for these programs.

**DATES:** See below.

**ADDRESSES:** See below.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Name and Number:*

Measurement and Engineering Research and Standards–11.609.

### Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) Gaithersburg and Boulder Programs

**Program Description:** The *SURF Gaithersburg Program* is soliciting applications in the areas of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Nanoscale Science and Technology, Chemical Science and Technology, Physics, Materials Science and Engineering/Neutron Research, Building and Fire Research, and Information Technology as described in the Federal Funding Opportunity.

The *SURF Boulder Program* is soliciting applications in the areas of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Chemical Science and Technology, Physics, Materials Science and Engineering, and Information Technology as described in the Federal Funding Opportunity.

Applications for the Gaithersburg and Boulder programs are separate. Application to one program does not constitute application to the other, and applications will not be exchanged between the Gaithersburg and Boulder

programs. If applicants wish to be considered at both sites, two separate applications must be submitted.

Both SURF programs will provide an opportunity for the NIST laboratories and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to join in a partnership to encourage outstanding undergraduate students to pursue careers in science and engineering. The programs will provide research opportunities for students to work with internationally known NIST scientists, to expose them to cutting-edge research and promote the pursuit of graduate degrees in science and engineering.

The NIST *SURF Gaithersburg and Boulder Program* Directors will work with appropriate department chairs, outreach coordinators, and directors of multi-disciplinary academic organizations to identify outstanding undergraduates (including graduating seniors) who would benefit from off-campus summer research in a world-class scientific environment.

The objective of the SURF programs is to build a mutually beneficial relationship between the student, the institution, and NIST. NIST is one of the nation's premiere research institutions for the physical and engineering sciences and, as the lead Federal agency for technology transfer, it provides a strong interface between government, industry and academia. NIST embodies a special science culture, developed from a large and well-equipped research staff that enthusiastically blends programs that address the immediate needs of industry with longer-term research that anticipates future needs. This occurs in few other places and enables the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Lab (EEL), Manufacturing Engineering Lab (MEL), Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST), Chemical Science and Technology Lab (CSTL), Physics Lab (PL), Materials Science and Engineering Lab (MSEL)/NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR), Building and Fire Research Lab (BFRL), and Information Technology Lab (ITL) to offer unique research and training opportunities for undergraduates, providing them a research-rich environment and exposure to state of the art equipment.

**EEEL, MEL, CNST, CSTL, PL, MSEL/NCNR, BFRL, and ITL SURF Gaithersburg Programs**

**DATES:** All *SURF Gaithersburg Program* applications, paper and electronic, must be received no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on February 25, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** For all *SURF Gaithersburg Programs*, paper applications must be

submitted to: Ms. Anita Sweigert, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8400, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8400; Tel: (301) 975-4200; E-mail: [anita.sweigert@nist.gov](mailto:anita.sweigert@nist.gov); Web site: <http://www.surf.nist.gov/surf2.htm>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity Notice (FFO) at <http://www.grants.gov>. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975-6328. The Gaithersburg and Boulder SURF programs will publish separate FFOs on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Program questions should be addressed to Ms. Anita Sweigert, Administrative Coordinator,

National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8400, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8400, Tel: (301) 975-4200, E-mail: [anita.sweigert@nist.gov](mailto:anita.sweigert@nist.gov). The *SURF Gaithersburg Program* Web site is: <http://www.surf.nist.gov/surf2.htm>. All grants related administration questions concerning this program should be directed to Melinda Chukran, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division at (301) 975-5266 or [melinda.chukran@nist.gov](mailto:melinda.chukran@nist.gov) or for assistance with using Grants.gov contact [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

#### *Funding Availability*

Funds budgeted for payment to students under these programs are stipends, not salary. The stipend is an

amount that is expected to be provided to the participating student to help defray the cost of living, for the duration of the program, in the Washington National Capital Region. The *SURF Gaithersburg Program* will not authorize funds for indirect costs or fringe benefits. The table below summarizes the anticipated annual funding levels from the NSF to operate our REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) programs, subject to program renewals and availability of funds. In some programs, anticipated NIST co-funding will supplement the number of awards supported. Program funding will be available to provide for the costs of stipends (\$363.64 per week per student), travel, and lodging (up to \$3400 per student).

Program	Anticipated NSF funding (\$)	Anticipated NIST funding (\$)	Total Program funding (\$)	Anticipated number of awards
EEEL .....	72,960	40,000	112,960	~5
MEL .....	88,000	0	88,000	~13
CNST .....	0	40,000	40,000	~5
CSTL .....	0	105,000	105,000	~16
PL .....	114,000	65,000	179,000	~26
MSEL/NCNR .....	130,000	0	130,000	~22
BFRL .....	81,000	0	81,000	~10
ITL .....	0	40,000	40,000	~5

The actual number of awards made under this announcement will depend on the proposed budgets and the availability of funding. For all *SURF Gaithersburg Programs* described in this notice, it is expected that individual awards to institutions will range from approximately \$3,000 to \$70,000. Funding for student housing will be included in cooperative agreements awarded as a result of this notice.

The *SURF Gaithersburg Program* is anticipated to run from May 27, 2008 through August 8, 2008; adjustments may be made to accommodate specific academic schedules (e.g., a limited number of 9-week cooperative agreements).

Funding for the program(s) listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations under The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110-161). In no event will NIST or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program(s) fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NIST or the Department of Commerce to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

**Statutory Authority:** The authority for the *SURF Gaithersburg Program* is 15 U.S.C. 278g-1, which authorizes NIST to fund financial assistance awards to students at institutions of higher learning within the United States. These students must show promise as present or future contributors to the missions of NIST.

**Eligibility:** NIST's *SURF Gaithersburg Program* is open to colleges and universities in the United States and its territories with degree granting programs in materials science, chemistry, nanoscale science, neutron research, engineering, computer science, mathematics, or physics. Participating students must be U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents. The *SURF Gaithersburg Program* does not require any matching funds.

**Review and Selection Process:** All *SURF Gaithersburg Program* proposals are submitted to the Administrative Coordinator. Each proposal is examined for completeness and responsiveness. Incomplete or non-responsive proposals will not be considered for funding, and the applicant will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each non-responsive application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed. Proposals should include the following:

(A) Student Information (student's name and university should appear on all of these documents):

- (1) student application information cover sheet;
- (2) academic transcript for each student nominated for participation (it is recommended that students have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or better, out of a possible 4.0);
- (3) a statement of motivation and commitment from each student to participate in the 2008 SURF program, including a description of the student's prioritized research interests;
- (4) a resume for each student;
- (5) two letters of recommendation for each student; and
- (6) confirmation of U.S. citizenship or permanent legal resident status for each student.

(B) Information About the Applicant Institution:

- (1) description of the institution's education and research programs; and
- (2) a summary list of the student(s) being nominated.

Institution proposals will be separated into student/institution packets. Each student/institution packet will be comprised of the required application forms, including a complete copy of the

student information and a complete copy of the institution information. The student/institution packets will be directed to the *SURF Gaithersburg Program* designated by the student as his/her first choice.

The selection process occurs in three rounds. Each *SURF Gaithersburg Program* will have three independent, objective NIST employees, who are knowledgeable in the scientific areas of the program, conduct a technical review of each student/institution packet based on the Evaluation Criteria for the *SURF Gaithersburg Programs* described in this notice. For the first round of evaluations and placement, each technical reviewer will evaluate according to the Evaluation Criteria listed below and provide a score for each student/institution packet. Based on the average of the reviewers' scores, a rank order of the student/institution packets will be prepared within each laboratory.

The SURF Program Director (e.g., the Selecting Official) for each laboratory, who is a NIST program official who did not participate in the technical evaluations, will then apply the following Selection Factors, which may result in revisions to the rank order: relevance of the student's course of study to the program objectives of the NIST laboratory in which that *SURF Gaithersburg Program* resides as described in the Funding Opportunity Description section of this notice, the relevance of the student's statement of commitment to the goals of the *SURF Gaithersburg Program*, fit of the student's interests and abilities to the available projects in that laboratory program, compatibility of the student with the research environment in that laboratory, assessment of whether the SURF program experience will make a difference on the student, and the availability of funding.

Based on these results, the Program Director (e.g., Selecting Official) for each laboratory will divide the rank ordered student/application packets into three categories: Priority Funding; Fund if Possible; and Do Not Fund. Student/institution packets placed in the Priority Funding category will be selected for funding in that *SURF Gaithersburg Program*. Student/institution packets placed in the Do Not Fund category will not be considered for funding by any other NIST laboratories.

Student/institution packets placed in the Fund if Possible Category may be considered for funding at a later time by the category-designating SURF Program; in the interim period these students will be released for consideration for funding by the *SURF Gaithersburg Program* designated by the student as his/her

second choice. The student's second choice laboratory's Program Director will take into consideration the recommendations of the reviewers who conducted the technical reviews for the student's first choice *SURF Gaithersburg Program*, apply the selection factors noted above as applied to that laboratory and arrive at a final rank order of the students available for the second round of selections and placements. The *SURF Gaithersburg Program* designated by the student as his/her second choice may choose not to rank and select students in this round. This action designates these students as being available for the third round of selections.

Students not selected for funding by their first or second choice *SURF Gaithersburg Program*, and students who did not designate a second choice, will then be considered for funding from all *SURF Gaithersburg Programs* that still have slots available in a third round, conducted the same as the second round. In making selections for the third round of selections and placement, each *SURF Gaithersburg Program* Director (e.g., Selecting Official) will take into consideration the recommendations of the reviewers who conducted the technical reviews for the student's first choice *SURF Gaithersburg Program*, the selection factors noted above as applied to that laboratory and rank order the students in this selection round. As in the second selection round, each *SURF Gaithersburg Program* may choose not to rank and select a student in this third round. Substitutions for students who decline offers will be made from the available pool of students consistent with the program review process.

The final approval of selected applications and award of cooperative agreements will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice and other applicable legal and regulatory requirements. NIST also reserves the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that adversely affects an applicant's business integrity, resulting in a determination by the Grants Officer that an applicant is not presently responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decision of the Grants Officer is final.

The *SURF Gaithersburg Program* will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for record keeping purposes, and unsuccessful

applicants will be notified in writing. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

**Evaluation Criteria:** For the *SURF Gaithersburg Program*, the evaluation criteria are:

(A) Evaluation of Student's Interest in Participating in the Program, Academic Ability, Laboratory Experience and Advanced Degree Openness: Evaluation of career goals and completed course work, honors and awards, grade point average in courses relevant to the *SURF Gaithersburg Program*, English proficiency and writing proficiency, research skills, innovativeness, social skills, safety consciousness, leadership potential, independence, honesty, and commitment of the student to working in a laboratory environment, and interest in pursuing graduate school.

(B) Institution's Commitment to Program Goals: Evaluation of the institution's academic department(s) relevant to the discipline(s) of the student(s).

Each of these factors is given equal weight in the evaluation process.

#### *SURF NIST Boulder Program*

**DATES:** All *SURF NIST Boulder Program* applications, paper and electronic, must be received no later than 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on February 25, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Paper applications for the *SURF NIST Boulder Program* must be submitted to: Ms. Eyvon Petty, Administrative Coordinator, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 325 Broadway, Mail Stop 847.00, Boulder, CO 80305-3328.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity Notice (FFO) at <http://www.grants.gov>. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975-6328. The Gaithersburg and Boulder SURF programs will publish separate FFOs on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Program questions should be addressed to Ms. Eyvon Petty, Administrative Coordinator, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 325 Broadway, Mail Stop 847.00, Boulder, CO 80305-3328, Tel: (303) 497-3295, E-mail: [pettye@boulder.nist.gov](mailto:pettye@boulder.nist.gov); Web site: <http://surf.boulder.nist.gov/>. All grants related administration questions concerning this program should be directed to Judy Murphy, Grants and Agreements Management Division at (301) 975-5603 or [judy.murphy@nist.gov](mailto:judy.murphy@nist.gov).

**Additional Information:**  
**Funding Availability:**

Funds budgeted for payment to students under this program are stipends, not salaries. The *SURF NIST Boulder Program* will not authorize funds for indirect costs or fringe benefits. The stipend of \$7340 includes a fellowship of \$4000 plus \$3340 for all expenses associated with travel and

subsistence. Once they receive their awards, college and university grant recipients are expected to provide the full stipend to participating students in one lump sum before May 27, 2008, the start of the *SURF NIST Boulder Program*. NIST will disburse funds to college and university awardees via the

Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system.

The table below summarizes the anticipated funding from NSF and NIST to operate the *SURF NIST Boulder Program*, broken out by Laboratory, subject to program approval and availability of funds.

Laboratory	Anticipated NSF funding	Anticipated NIST funding	Total program funding	Anticipated number of awards
EEEL .....	34,400	39,000	73,400	10
PL .....	17,200	19,500	36,700	5
CSTL .....	6,880	7,800	14,680	2
MSEL .....	13,760	15,600	29,360	4
ITL .....	3,440	3,900	7,340	1

The actual number of awards made under this announcement will depend on the proposed budgets and the availability of funding. For the *SURF NIST Boulder Program* described in this funding opportunity, it is expected that individual awards to institutions will be \$7340 times the number of participating students from that institution.

The *SURF NIST Boulder Program* is anticipated to run from May 27, 2008 through August 8, 2008; adjustments may be made to accommodate specific academic schedules (e.g., some 11-week cooperative agreements shifted to begin after the regular start in order to accommodate institutions operating on quarter systems).

Funding for the program(s) listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations under The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110–161). In no event will NIST or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program(s) fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NIST or the Department of Commerce to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

**Statutory Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 278g–1.

**Eligibility:** The *SURF NIST Boulder Program* is open to colleges and universities in the United States and its territories with degree granting programs in materials science, chemistry, engineering, computer science, mathematics, or physics. Participating students must be U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents. The *SURF NIST Boulder Program* focuses on undergraduate fellows. Graduating seniors are eligible to participate but the likelihood of funds for their possible participation is extremely limited. Up to three such

participants, approximately, might be considered if funds become available. If so, NIST will give priority to previous SURF participants. The *SURF NIST Boulder Program* does not require any matching funds.

**Review and Selection Process:** All *SURF NIST Boulder Program* proposals are submitted to the Administrative Coordinator. Each proposal is examined for completeness and responsiveness. Incomplete or non-responsive proposals will not be considered for funding, and the applicant will be so notified. The Program will retain one copy of each non-responsive application for three years for record keeping purposes. Proposals should include the following:

- (A) Student Information (student's name and university should appear on all of these documents):
  - (1) student application information cover sheet;
  - (2) academic transcript for each student nominated for participation (it is recommended that students have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or better, out of a possible 4.0);
  - (3) a statement of motivation and commitment from each student to participate in the *SURF NIST Boulder Program*, including a description of the student's prioritized research interests;
  - (4) a resume for each student;
  - (5) two letters of recommendation for each student; and
  - (6) confirmation of U.S. citizenship or permanent legal resident status for each student.
- (B) Information About the Applicant Institution:
  - (1) Description of the institution's education and research programs; and
  - (2) A summary list of the student(s) being nominated, with one paragraph of commentary about each student from a dean or

department chair that describes why the students would be successful in the SURF program.

Institution proposals will be separated into student/institution packets. Each student/institution packet will be comprised of the required application forms, including a complete copy of the student information and a complete copy of the institution information. The student/institution packets will be directed to a review committee of NIST staff appointed by the SURF NIST Boulder Directors.

First, all applications received in response to this announcement will be reviewed to determine whether or not they are complete and responsive to the scope of the stated program objectives. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will not be reviewed for technical merit.

Second, each SURF student/university packet will be reviewed by at least three independent, objective NIST employees, who are knowledgeable in the scientific areas of the program and are able to conduct a technical review of each student/university packet based on the Evaluation Criteria described in this notice. The normalized scores based on this merit review will be averaged for each student/university applicant packet, creating a rank order. The Selecting Official, the Director of NIST Boulder Laboratories, shall award in the rank order unless a proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the following factors: Availability of funding, balance or distribution of funds by research or technical disciplines.

The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory

requirements, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decisions of the Grants Officer are final.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for record keeping purposes.

**Evaluation Criteria:** For the *SURF NIST Boulder Program* the evaluation criteria are as follows:

(A) Evaluation of Student's Academic Ability and Commitment to Program Goals (80%): Includes evaluation of completed course work; expressed research interest; compatibility of the expressed research interest with *SURF NIST Boulder* research areas; research skills; grade point average in courses relevant to the *SURF NIST Boulder Program*; career goals; honors and activities;

(B) Evaluation of Applicant Institution's Commitment to Program Goals (20%): Includes evaluation of the institution's academic department(s) relevant to the discipline(s) of the student(s).

The following information applies to all programs announced in this notice:

**The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements:** The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389). On the form SF-424, the applicant's 9-digit Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number must be entered in the Applicant Identifier block (68 FR 38402).

**Collaborations with NIST Employees:** All applications should include a description of any work proposed to be performed by an entity other than the applicant, and the cost of such work should ordinarily be included in the budget.

If an applicant proposes collaboration with NIST, the statement of work should include a statement of this intention, a description of the collaboration, and prominently identify the NIST employee(s) involved, if known. Any collaboration by a NIST employee must be approved by appropriate NIST management and is at the sole discretion of NIST. Prior to beginning the merit review process, NIST will verify the approval of the proposed collaboration. Any unapproved collaboration will be

stricken from the proposal prior to the merit review.

**Use of NIST Intellectual Property:** If the applicant anticipates using any NIST-owned intellectual property to carry out the work proposed, the applicant should identify such intellectual property. This information will be used to ensure that no NIST employee involved in the development of the intellectual property will participate in the review process for that competition. In addition, if the applicant intends to use NIST-owned intellectual property, the applicant must comply with all statutes and regulations governing the licensing of Federal government patents and inventions, described at 35 U.S.C. 200-212, 37 CFR Part 401, 15 CFR 14.36, and in section B.20 of the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements, published on December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389). Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Counsel for NIST, 301-975-2803.

Any use of NIST-owned intellectual property by a proposer is at the sole discretion of NIST and will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis if a project is deemed meritorious. The applicant should indicate within the statement of work whether it already has a license to use such intellectual property or whether it intends to seek one.

If any inventions made in whole or in part by a NIST employee arise in the course of an award made pursuant to this notice, the United States government may retain its ownership rights in any such invention. Licensing or other disposition of NIST's rights in such inventions will be determined solely by NIST, and include the possibility of NIST putting the intellectual property into the public domain.

**Initial Screening of all Applications:** All applications received in response to this announcement will be reviewed to determine whether or not they are complete and responsive to the scope of the stated objectives for each program. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will not be reviewed for technical merit. The Program will retain one copy of each non-responsive application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

**Paperwork Reduction Act:** The standard forms in the application kit involve a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, CD-346, and *SURF Program Student Applicant Information* have been approved by OMB under the

respective Control Numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046, 0605-0001, and 0693-0042.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

**Research Projects Involving Human Subjects, Human Tissue, Data or Recordings Involving Human Subjects:** Any proposal that includes research involving human subjects, human tissue, data or recordings involving human subjects must meet the requirements of the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects, codified for the Department of Commerce at 15 CFR Part 27. In addition, any proposal that includes research on these topics must be in compliance with any statutory requirements imposed upon the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other federal agencies regarding these topics, all regulatory policies and guidance adopted by DHHS, FDA, and other Federal agencies on these topics, and all Presidential statements of policy on these topics.

NIST will accept the submission of human subjects protocols that have been approved by Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) registered with DHHS and performed by entities possessing a current, valid Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) from DHHS. NIST will not issue a single project assurance (SPA) for any IRB reviewing any human subjects protocol proposed to NIST.

On August 9, 2001, the President announced his decision to allow Federal funds to be used for research on existing human embryonic stem cell lines as long as prior to his announcement (1) the derivation process (which commences with the removal of the inner cell mass from the blastocyst) had already been initiated and (2) the embryo from which the stem cell line was derived no longer had the possibility of development as a human being. NIST will follow guidance issued by the National Institutes of Health at <http://ohrp.osophs.dhhs.gov/humansubjects/guidance/stemcell.pdf> for funding such research.

**Research Projects Involving Vertebrate Animals:** Any proposal that includes research involving vertebrate animals must be in compliance with the National Research Council's "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" which can be obtained from

National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20055. In addition, such proposals must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*), 9 CFR Parts 1, 2, and 3, and if appropriate, 21 CFR Part 58. These regulations do not apply to proposed research using pre-existing images of animals or to research plans that do not include live animals that are being cared for, euthanized, or used by the project participants to accomplish research goals, teaching, or testing. These regulations also do not apply to obtaining animal materials from commercial processors of animal products or to animal cell lines or tissues from tissue banks.

**Limitation of Liability:** Funding for the programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110–161). In no event will the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige the agency to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

**Executive Order 12866:** This funding notice was determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

**Executive Order 13132 (Federalism):** It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

**Executive Order 12372:** Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.”

**Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act:** Notice and comment are not required under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)). Because notice and comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)), a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required and has not been prepared for this notice, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*

Dated: January 22, 2008.

**Richard F. Kayser,**

*Acting Deputy Director, NIST.*

[FR Doc. E8–1333 Filed 1–24–08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–13–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XE98**

#### Endangered Species; File No. 10101

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Tonya Wiley, Mote Marine Laboratory, Center for Shark Research, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, Florida 34236, has applied in due form for a permit to take smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before February 25, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** The application 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)427–2521; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727)824–5312; fax (727)824–5309.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application 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 this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427–2521, 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 e-mail comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 10100.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patrick Opay or Jennifer Skidmore, (301)713–2289.

**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 222–226).

The applicant proposes to collect data on the biology, distribution and abundance of the endangered smalltooth sawfish in order to facilitate the recovery of the species. All sawfish captured during field surveys would be handled, measured, tagged, sampled, and released alive. Capture methods would include longline, rod and reel, set lines (drum lines), gill nets, and beach seines. Tagging methods include rototags (fin tags), plastic headed dart tags, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags, acoustic tags (transmitters), Pop-Up Archival Transmitting (PAT) tags, and Smart Position Only Transmitting (SPOT) tags. Sampling would include a small fin clip and a small blood sample. Sawfish acquired through dead strandings or from law enforcement confiscations would be measured and sampled for scientific purposes. Sampling would occur in Florida, with the goal of taking 45 smalltooth sawfish per year. The applicant requests a permit for five years. Incidental take of sea turtles, sturgeon, coral, dolphins, alligators, crocodiles and manatees are unlikely but possible.

Dated: January 18, 2008.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E8–1315 Filed 1–24–08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**RIN 0648–XE56**

#### Marine Mammals and Endangered Species; National Marine Fisheries Service File No. 10074; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service File No. PRT–165304

**AGENCIES:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Michael Etnier, Ph.D., Box 353100, University of Washington, Seattle, WA