

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

[I.D. 013003C]

Endangered Species; Files No.1266-01 and 1388

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have applied in due form for a permit modification to take sea turtles for purposes of scientific research/enhancement:

REMSA, Inc., 12829 Jefferson Ave., Suite 108, Newport News, VA 23608 (John Glass, Principal Investigator) (File No. 1266-01); and

Dr. David Nelson, U.S. Army Research and Development Center, Waterways Experiment Station, 4104 Freetown Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39183 (File No. 1388).

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before May 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The modification requests 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

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371;

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 requests should be submitted 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 these particular modification requests 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. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carrie Hubbard or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modifications are 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 222-226).

Permit No. 1266-01 authorizes REMSA, Inc. to capture via trawl, handle, flipper and PIT tag, and release sea turtles while removing them from the path of hopper dredges. Annually, 350 loggerhead, 150 green, 150 Kemp's ridley, 10 hawksbill and 10 leatherback sea turtles may be taken in this manner. Research is conducted in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. In this modification, the permit holder requests authorization to biopsy sample sea turtles. A maximum of 350 loggerhead, 150 green, 150 Kemp's ridley, 10 hawksbill, and 10 leatherback sea turtles could be biopsy sampled annually until the permit's expiration on April 30, 2006. Biopsy sampling will follow the protocol for tissue collection established by the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center and will only be performed by trained personnel.

Permit No. 1388 authorizes Dr. David Nelson to conduct sea turtle research in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The first project involves relocation trawling in association with hopper dredge activity. A total of 200 loggerhead, 100 green, 30 Kemp's ridley, 2 hawksbill, and 2 leatherback sea turtles are authorized to be captured, handled, measured, flipper and PIT tagged, and released. The second project uses a subset of the turtles caught via relocation trawling to investigate large-scale movements and diving behavior. Twenty loggerhead, 5 Kemp's ridley, and 5 green turtles will be satellite tagged in addition to the above activities before being released. The third project is an abundance and habitat survey of green sea turtles along the shoreline of Cape Canaveral. A total of 75 green sea turtles may be captured, handled, flipper and PIT tagged, and fitted with a radio/sonic transmitter or a time-depth recorder/radio transmitter, before being released. The permit holder requests authorization to biopsy sample 30 of the 200 loggerhead turtles that may be captured annually during dredging activity. Biopsy sampling will follow the protocol for tissue collection established by the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center and will only be performed by trained personnel.

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.

Dated: March 28, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 03-8273 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

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

[Docket No. 020325069-2311-02]

Request for Proposals for FY 2003—NOAA Educational Partnership Program With Minority Serving Institutions: Environmental Entrepreneurship Program

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of an extension of deadline.

SUMMARY: This notice is an addendum to, and hereby extends only the deadline in, **Federal Register** Notice, Vol. 68., No. 2, January 3, 2003 for full proposals under the "NOAA Institutions: Environmental Entrepreneurship Program" to no later than 5 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Savings Time) on April 24, 2003.

Mark Brown,

Chief Financial/Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-8270 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KD-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****National Sea Grant Review Panel**

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Sea Grant

Review Panel. The meeting will have several purposes. Panel members will discuss and provide advice on the National Sea Grant College Program in the areas of program evaluation, education and extension, science and technology programs, and other matters as described below:

DATES: The announced meeting is scheduled during two days: Saturday, April 26 and Wednesday, April 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: (To be held in conjunction with the national "Sea Grant Week" Meetings April 26–30, 2003), Moody Gardens Hotel, Seven Hope Boulevard, Galveston, Texas 77554, Telephone: (409) 741–8484.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Francis M. Schuler, Designated Federal Official, National Sea Grant College program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11837, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713–2445.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Panel, which consists of a balanced representation from academia, industry, state government and citizens groups, was established in 1976 by section 209 of the Sea Grant Improvement Act (Pub. L. 94–461, 33 U.S.C. 1128). The Panel advises the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program with respect to operations under the Act, and such other matters as the Secretary refers to them for review and advice. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Saturday, April 26, 2003

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Executive Committee Report.

NOAA/Sea Grant Update.

Sea Grant Association President's Report.

Program Evaluation.

New Panel Business.

Adjourn.

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

National Sea Grant Office and Review Panel Wrap-up.

This meeting will be open to the public.

Dated: March 27, 2003.

Mark Brown,

Chief Financial Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

[FR Doc. 03–8269 Filed 4–3–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KA-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 2003–C–015]

Public Advisory Committees

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for nominations.

SUMMARY: On November 29, 1999, the President signed into law the Patent and Trademark Office Efficiency Act (the "Act"), Pub. L. 106–113, Appendix I, Title IV, Subtitle G, 113 Stat. 1501A–572, which, among other things, established two Public Advisory Committees to review the policies, goals, performance, budget and user fees of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with respect to patents, in the case of the Patent Public Advisory Committee, and with respect to trademarks, in the case of the Trademark Public Advisory Committee, and to advise the Director on these matters. The USPTO is requesting nominations for three (3) members to each Public Advisory Committee for terms that begin July 13, 2003.

DATES: Nominations must be received or electronically transmitted on or before May 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to submit nominations should send the nominee's resume to Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, Washington, DC 20231; by electronic mail to:

PPACnominations@uspto.gov for the Patent Public Advisory Committee or *TPACnominations@uspto.gov* for the Trademark Patent Public Advisory Committee; by facsimile transmission marked to the Chief of Staff's attention at (703) 305–8664; or by mail marked to the Chief of Staff's attention and addressed to the Office of the Under Secretary and Director of the USPTO, Washington, DC 20231.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chief of Staff by facsimile transmission marked to his attention at (703) 305–8664, or by mail marked to his attention and addressed to the Office of the Under Secretary and Director of the USPTO, Washington, DC 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Act, the then-Acting Secretary of Commerce appointed members to the Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Committees on July 12, 2000. The Advisory Committees' duties include:

- Review and advise the Under Secretary and Director of the USPTO on

matters relating to policies, goals, performance, budget, and user fees of the USPTO relating to patents and trademarks, respectively; and

- Within 60 days after the end of each fiscal year: (1) Prepare an annual report on matters listed above; (2) transmit a report to the Secretary of Commerce, the President, and the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives; and (3) publish the report in the Official Gazette of the USPTO.

Members of the Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Committees are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Commerce for three (3)-year terms.

Advisory Committees

The Public Advisory Committees are each composed of nine (9) voting members who are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce (the "Secretary") and who have substantial backgrounds and achievement in finance, management, labor relations, science, technology, and office automation." 35 U.S.C. 5(b)(3). The Public Advisory Committee members must be United States citizens and represent the interests of diverse users of the USPTO both large and small entity applicants in proportion to the number of such applications filed. In the case of the Patent Public Advisory Committee, at least twenty-five (25) percent of the members must represent "small business concerns, independent inventors, and nonprofit organizations," and at least one member must represent the independent inventor community. 35 U.S.C. 35(b)(2). Each of the Public Advisory Committees also includes three (3) non-voting members representing each labor organization recognized by the USPTO.

Procedures and Guidelines of the Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Committees

Each newly appointed member of the Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Committees will serve for a term of three years. Members appointed in the current fiscal year shall serve from July 13, 2003, through July 12, 2006. As required by the Act, members of the Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Committees will receive compensation for each day while the member is attending meetings or engaged in the business of that Advisory Committee. The rate of compensation is the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code. While away from home or regular place of business, each