

changes to the amount of the quotas assigned to each state and removal of the Federal for-hire component from the EFP. The applications are considered together in this notice because they each would require a portion of the private-angling and Federal for-hire quotas; however, each application is independent and will be considered individually as part of the overall recreational management of Gulf red snapper.

Final decisions on issuance of the EFPs will depend on a NMFS review of public comments received on the applications, consultations with the affected states, the Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that each is consistent with all applicable laws.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 7, 2018.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-04859 Filed 3-9-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG038

Endangered Species; File No. 19496-01

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 Mariana Fuentes, Ph.D., Florida State University, 581 Oakland Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301, has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 19496.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before April 11, 2018.

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. 19496 Mod 1 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705,

Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Markin or Amy Hapeman, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification to Permit No. 19496, issued on June 16, 2016 (81 FR 1621), 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. 19496 authorizes the permit holder to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles for scientific research in the Florida Big Ben Region to identify important foraging and developmental habitats. The permit holder requests authorization to: (1) Add a new location to include the area from St. Lucie Inlet to Jupiter Inlet on the east coast of Florida, and (2) increase the number of green, Kemp's ridley, and loggerhead sea turtles that may be taken under the permit for the new location. Annually an additional 120 green, 48 loggerhead, and 3 Kemp's ridley sea turtles would be approached by vessel and pursued for capture. Additionally, up to 120 green, 48 loggerhead, and 3 Kemp's ridley sea turtles would be captured by hand or using dip, strike, or tangle nets, annually. All captured sea turtles would be tagged (passive integrated transponder and flipper), marked (temporarily), biologically sampled (tissue and blood), measured, weighed, and photographed. Up to 10 green and five loggerhead captured sea turtles also would receive a satellite transmitter (epoxy attachment) and biologically sampled (scute biopsy) prior to release.

Dated: March 6, 2018.

Julia Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-04830 Filed 3-9-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF914

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Clean Ocean Initiative, Inc. (Clean Ocean). If granted, the EFP would authorize Clean Ocean to fish for and retain Caribbean prohibited corals collected from 10 decommissioned submarine telecommunication cables being retrieved from U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters in the Caribbean off of Puerto Rico.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than March 27, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the application by either of the following methods:

- **Email:** Sarah.Stephenson@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the email comment the following document identifier: "CLEAN OCEAN_EFP 2018".
- **Mail:** Sarah Stephenson, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

The application and related documents are available for review upon written request to any of the above addresses. All comments received, including all voluntarily submitted personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information, are part of the public record. NMFS will accept anonymous comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Stephenson, telephone: 727-824-5305, email: Sarah.Stephenson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EFP is requested under the authority of the