

- Meetings with CS Saudi Arabia's energy and infrastructure industry specialists in Riyadh and Dhahran; and
- Networking receptions in two cities of the trade mission.

Proposed Mission Timetable

Mission participants will be encouraged to arrive December 5, 2010 and the mission program will proceed from December 6 through December 8, 2010.

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| December 6 | Riyadh Market briefings by U.S. Embassy Riyadh officials. One-on-one business match-making appointments. Networking reception. |
| December 7 | Dhahran Travel to Dhahran. Market briefing by U.S. Consulate Dhahran officials. Networking reception. |
| December 8 | Dhahran Meeting at Saudi Aramco. One-on-one business match-making appointments. |

Participation Requirements

All parties interested in participating in the Energy and Infrastructure Trade Mission to Saudi Arabia must complete and submit an application for consideration by the Department of Commerce. All applicants will be evaluated on their ability to meet certain conditions and best satisfy the selection criteria as outlined below. A minimum of 10 and a maximum of 15 companies will be selected to participate in the mission from the applicant pool. U.S. companies already doing business in Saudi Arabia as well as U.S. companies seeking to enter the market for the first time are encouraged to apply.

Fees and Expenses

After a company has been selected to participate on the mission, a payment to the Department of Commerce in the form of a participation fee is required. The participation fee will be \$3,680 for large firms and \$2,925 for a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)¹ or small organization, which will cover one representative. The fee for each additional firm representative (large firm or SME) is \$500. Expenses for travel, lodging, most meals, and

¹ An SME is defined as a firm with 500 or fewer employees or that otherwise qualifies as a small business under SBA regulations (see <http://www.sba.gov/services/contracting opportunities/sizestandardstoc/index.html>). Parent companies, affiliates, and subsidiaries will be considered when determining business size. The dual pricing reflects the Commercial Service's user fee schedule that became effective May 1, 2008 (see <http://www.export.gov/newsletter/march2008/initiatives.html> for additional information).

incidentals will be the responsibility of each mission participant.

Conditions for Participation

- An applicant must submit a completed and signed mission application and supplemental application materials, including adequate information on the company's products and/or services, primary market objectives, and goals for participation. If the U.S. Department of Commerce receives an incomplete application, the Department may reject the application, request additional information, or take the lack of information into account when evaluating the applications.
- Each applicant must also certify that the products and services it seeks to export through the mission are either produced in the United States, or, if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have at least fifty-one percent U.S. content.

Selection Criteria for Participation

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Suitability of a company's products or services to the mission's goals.
 - Applicant's potential for business in Saudi Arabia, including likelihood of exports resulting from the trade mission.
 - Consistency of the applicant's goals and objectives with the stated scope of the trade mission (as an example—be in the energy and/or infrastructure sectors indicated in the mission description).
- Referrals from political organizations and any documents containing references to partisan political activities (including political contributions) will be removed from an applicant's submission and not considered during the selection process.

Timeframe for Recruitment and Applications

Mission recruitment will be conducted in an open and public manner, including publication in the **Federal Register**, posting on the Commerce Department trade mission calendar (<http://www.ita.doc.gov/doctm/tmcal.html>) and other Internet Web sites, press releases to general and trade media, direct mail, notices by industry trade associations and other multiplier groups, and publicity at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows.

Recruitment for the mission will begin immediately and conclude no later than September 15, 2010. The U.S. Department of Commerce will review all applications immediately after the deadline. We will inform applicants of

selection decisions as soon as possible after September 15, 2010.

Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

Contacts

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U.S. Commercial Service Saudi Arabia Contacts

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XW07

Groundfish Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area and the Gulf of Alaska; King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands; Scallop and Salmon Fisheries Off the Coast of Alaska

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

ACTION: Notification of a call for proposals for Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) and associated fishery management measures.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and NMFS are soliciting proposals for candidate sites that could be identified as HAPCs and managed within Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Council has identified skate nurseries as a priority for consideration during this call for proposals, and proposals must meet the identified priority.

DATES: Proposals must be submitted by August 16, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Proposals should be submitted to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Evans or Sarah Melton, (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: HAPC designations provide an opportunity for Councils to highlight especially valuable and/or vulnerable areas within EFH that warrant priority consideration for conservation and management. The regulatory guidelines for implementing the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act encourage Fishery Management Councils to identify specific types or areas of habitat within EFH as HAPCs based on the following considerations: (1) the importance of the ecological function provided by the habitat, (2) the extent to which the habitat is sensitive to human-induced environmental degradation, (3) whether, and to what extent, development activities are, or will be, stressing the habitat type, and (4) the rarity of the habitat type (50 CFR 600.815(a)(8)). In the North Pacific, specific sites will be considered for HAPC if they (a) meet the rarity consideration above, and (b) meet at least one other of the HAPC considerations.

The Council and NMFS are soliciting proposals for specific candidate sites to be considered as HAPCs. Proposals must meet the Council's identified priority for this proposal cycle, which is skate nurseries. Proposal applications are available on the Council website, www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc. The review process for proposals is identified in the proposal package, available on the website, and will involve screening to determine how responsive proposals are to the Council's priority and HAPC consideration. Following review, the Council will decide whether to proceed with a fishery management plan amendment to identify HAPCs and any associated management measures. NMFS will promulgate any resulting regulations, supported by appropriate analyses.

Proposals should include the following information:

1. Proposer information (name, address, affiliation)
2. Title of proposal
3. Summary of proposal (single, brief paragraph describing the proposed action)
4. Identification of what habitat and FMP species the proposed area is intended to protect
5. Geographic delineation of the proposed HAPC (including latitude and longitude reference points and delineation on an appropriately-scaled NOAA chart)
6. Responsiveness to HAPC considerations and Council priorities

(identify how the proposed HAPC addresses the four considerations set out in the EFH guidelines, and the Council's priority habitat type for the 2010 proposal process)

7. Purpose and need for proposal
8. Specific objectives for proposal, and methods to measure progress toward those objectives
9. Proposed management measures, if appropriate, to meet objectives
10. Expected benefits of the proposed HAPC to FMP species
11. Identification of fisheries, sectors, stakeholders, and communities who would be affected by the establishment of the proposed HAPC
12. Supporting information (please provide the best available information and/or sources of information to support the objectives of the proposed HAPC and discussion of the expected effects of implementing the proposal, including socioeconomic costs if possible.)

Dated: April 21, 2010.

Tracey Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XV94

Endangered Species; File No. 14604

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Harold Brundage, Environmental Research and Consulting, Inc, 126 Bancroft Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348, has been issued a permit to take shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit 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, Protected Resources Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978) 281-9328; fax (978) 281-9394.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Malcolm Mohead or Kate Swails, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 19, 2009, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 59961) that a request for a scientific research permit to take shortnose sturgeon had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued 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 parts 222-226).

The applicant is authorized to conduct a five-year scientific study of shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River where primary study objectives are to characterize habitat use, relative abundance, reproduction, juvenile recruitment, temporal and spatial distributions, and reproductive health of the shortnose sturgeon population in the Delaware River and Estuary. The permit authorizes non-lethal sampling methods on up to 1,000 adult and juvenile shortnose sturgeon annually. Research activities will include: capturing via gill net, trammel net, and trawl net; measuring and weighing; tagging with external identifier PIT and Floy T-bar tags; and sampling tissue for genetic analysis. A subset of 30 adults and 30 juveniles per year will be tagged with acoustic transmitters and tracked. Another subset of 24 adults will be annually examined internally using laparoscopic techniques, with each potentially having gonad biopsy and blood samples taken for analyses. Another subset of 20 adults per year will be included in hydroacoustic gear testing. Additionally, lethal takes of up to 300 eggs or larvae each year will be collected during seasonal spawning activity with gear such as artificial substrate, D-frame ichthyoplankton net, and/or epibenthic sled. Finally, up to one unintentional mortality or serious injury is permitted annually, with no more than three mortalities over the five year permit. Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered or threatened species, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.