



Permit No. 17787
Expiration Date: February 12, 2019
Reports Due: May 12, annually

PERMIT TO TAKE PROTECTED SPECIES¹ FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

I. Authorization

This permit is issued to Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) (hereinafter "Permit Holder"), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 75 Virginia Drive, Miami, Florida 33149, [Responsible Party: Bonnie Ponwith], pursuant to the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (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).

II. Abstract

The objective of the permitted activity, as described in the application, is to investigate the movements and habitat use of smalltooth sawfish in Florida waters, primarily in the region of the Florida coast from Naples to Key West, encompassing the Ten Thousand Islands.

III. Terms and Conditions

The activities authorized herein must occur by the means, in the areas, and for the purposes set forth in the permit application, and as limited by the Terms and Conditions specified in this permit, including attachments and appendices. Permit noncompliance constitutes a violation and is grounds for permit modification, suspension, or revocation, and for enforcement action.

A. Duration of Permit

1. Personnel listed in Condition C.1 of this permit (hereinafter "Researchers") may conduct activities authorized by this permit through February 12, 2019. This permit expires on the date indicated and is non-renewable. This permit may be extended by the Director, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, pursuant to applicable regulations and the requirements of the ESA.
2. Researchers must immediately stop permitted activities and the Permit Holder must contact the Chief, NMFS Permits and Conservation Division (hereinafter "Permits Division") for written permission to resume:

- a. If serious injury or mortality² of protected species occurs. See Condition E.2 for reporting requirements.
 - b. If authorized take³ is exceeded, including accidental takes of protected species not listed in this permit. See Condition E.2 for reporting requirements.
3. The Permit Holder may continue to possess biological samples⁴ acquired⁵ under this permit after permit expiration without additional written authorization, provided the samples are maintained as specified in this permit.

B. Number and Kind(s) of Protected Species, Location(s) and Manner of Taking

1. The table in Appendix 1 outlines the number of protected species, by species authorized to be taken, and the locations, manner, and time period in which they may be taken.
2. Researchers working under this permit may collect visual images (*e.g.*, photographs, video) as needed to document the permitted activities, provided the collection of such images does not result in takes.
3. The Permit Holder may use visual images and audio recordings collected under this permit, including those authorized in Table 1 of Appendix 1, in printed materials (including commercial or scientific publications) and presentations provided the images and recordings are accompanied by a statement indicating that the activity was conducted pursuant to a NMFS Permit. This statement must accompany the images and recordings in all subsequent uses or sales.
4. The Chief, Permits Division may grant written approval for photography, filming, or audio recording activities not essential to achieving the objectives of the permitted activities, including allowing persons not essential to the research (*e.g.*, a documentary film crew) to be present, provided:

² This permit does not allow for unintentional serious injury and mortality caused by the presence or actions of researchers. This includes, but is not limited to: deaths resulting from infections related to sampling procedures; and deaths or injuries sustained by animals during capture and handling, or while attempting to avoid researchers or escape capture. Note that for marine mammals, a serious injury is defined by regulation as any injury that will likely result in mortality.

³ By regulation, a take under the MMPA means to harass, hunt, capture, collect, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, collect, or kill any marine mammal. This includes, without limitation, any of the following: The collection of dead animals, or parts thereof; the restraint or detention of a marine mammal, no matter how temporary; tagging a marine mammal; the negligent or intentional operation of an aircraft or vessel, or the doing of any other negligent or intentional act which results in disturbing or molesting a marine mammal; and feeding or attempting to feed a marine mammal in the wild. Under the ESA, a take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to do any of the preceding.

⁴ Biological samples include, but are not limited to: carcasses (whole or parts); and any tissues, fluids, or other specimens from live or dead protected species; except feces, urine, and spew collected from the water or ground.

⁵ Authorized methods of sample acquisition are specified in Appendix 1 and may include collection from animals, import, and receipt from subsistence harvest or other legal sources.

- a. The Permit Holder submits a request to the Permits Division specifying the location and nature of the activity, approximate dates, and number and roles of individuals for which permission is sought.
 - b. Non-essential photography, filming, or recording activities will not influence the conduct of permitted activities or result in takes of protected species.
 - c. Persons authorized to accompany the Researchers for the purpose of such non-essential activities will not be allowed to participate in the permitted activities.
 - d. The Permit Holder and Researchers do not require compensation from the individuals in return for allowing them to accompany Researchers.
5. Researchers must comply with the following conditions related to the manner of taking:
- a. Handling:
 - 1. Care must be taken when handling adult and sub-adult sawfish to minimize any possible injury. Smaller sawfish, such as juveniles and neonates, may be brought aboard must be placed on a clean, safe surface that will minimize the chance of injury.
 - 2. Sawfish must be returned to the water as soon as possible to minimize stress. Sawfish must not be held out of the water longer than one minute. If an animal has to be held for a longer period for sampling, sea water must be run over the animal's gills.
 - 3. All sawfish must be examined for existing tags, including PIT tags. , Animals may not be double tagged with PIT tags. If existing tags are found, the tag identification numbers must be recorded and included in the annual report.
 - b. Sampling (blood or tissue; sawfish):
 - 1. Sanitized techniques must be used at all times.
 - 2. Sanitized instruments must be used when removing sawfish tissue.
 - 3. No more than two tissue samples may be taken from each sawfish.
 - c. Satellite transmitters:
 - 1. Total weight of transmitter attachments for any one sawfish must not exceed 2% of the body mass of the animal.
 - 2. Each attachment must be made so that there is no risk of entanglement.
 - 3. The transmitter attachment must either contain a weak link or have no gap between the transmitter and the sawfish that could result in entanglement.
 - 4. Transmitter attachments must be as hydrodynamic as possible.

- d. Internal transmitters
1. Surgical implantation of internal tags must only be attempted when fish are in excellent condition. If animals are overly stressed, they must be released without internally tagging.
 2. During surgical procedures, instruments must be sanitized or new instruments used between procedures.
 3. To ensure proper closure of surgical incisions, either uninterrupted running or simple interrupted suturing techniques may be applied.
- e. Netting Conditions:
1. Nets used to catch sawfish must be of large enough mesh size to diminish bycatch of other species.
 2. Highly visible buoys must be attached to the float line of each net and spaced at intervals of every 10 yards or less.
 3. Nets must be checked at intervals of less than 30 minutes, and more frequently whenever animals are observed in the net. If water temperatures are $\leq 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$, nets must be checked at less than 20-minute intervals. "Net checking" is defined as a complete and thorough visual check of the net either by snorkeling the net in clear water or by pulling up on the top line such that the full depth of the net is viewed along the entire length.
 4. The float line of all nets must be observed at all times for movements that indicate an animal has encountered the net. When this occurs the net must be immediately checked.
 5. Researchers must plan for unexpected circumstances or demands of the research activities and have the ability and resources to meet net checking requirements at all times (e.g. if one animal is very entangled and requires extra time and effort to remove from the net, researchers must have sufficient staff and resources to continue checking the rest of the net at the same time).
 6. During release from boats, animals must be lowered to the water's surface to prevent potential injuries.
- f. Longline and Drum Line Gear: This gear must be checked every hour or less and animals must be retrieved when evidenced captured by gear. Researchers must tend the gear while it is in the water and remove it if marine mammals move into the area. The barbs on the circle hooks must be depressed.
- g. Accidental Mortality or Serious Injury of Smalltooth Sawfish:
1. This permit does not authorize the serious injury or mortality of smalltooth sawfish. In the event that one is killed or seriously harmed the research must be immediately suspended and the Permits Division contacted as described in Section E.2.
 2. Any deaths or serious injuries that could have been caused by the presence or actions of the researchers, regardless of whether the animal was in hand at the time of death, must be reported. This

includes, but is not limited to, deaths resulting from infections related to intrusive procedures or injuries sustained by animals attempting to evade capture or restraint. If researchers are uncertain about whether a death was related to the research, they should consult with the Permits Division.

h. Marine Mammals: Nets must not be put in the water when marine mammals are observed within the vicinity of the research; marine mammals must be allowed to either leave or pass through the area safely before net setting is initiated.

1. Should any marine mammals enter the research area after the nets have been set the lead line must be raised and dropped in an attempt to make marine mammals in the vicinity aware of the net.
2. If marine mammals remain within 100 feet radius of the research area, nets must be removed.
3. If a marine mammal is entangled, researchers must:
 - i. Stop netting activities and take steps to immediately free the animal if able to do so without injuring themselves or the animals; otherwise, they must attempt to keep the animal alive until assistance arrives to the scene.
 - ii. Notify the appropriate NMFS Regional Stranding Coordinator as soon as possible by calling (305) 361-4586; and (727) 824-5312; (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/coordinators.htm>), and
 - iii. Report the incident as specified in Condition E.2.
4. Permitted activities will be suspended until the Permits Division has granted approval to continue research per Condition E.2.
5. Longline and Drum Line Gear: This gear must be checked (pulled up and examined for catch) every hour or sooner. Researchers must tend the gear while it is in the water and remove it if marine mammals move within 100 foot radius of the line.

i. Sea Turtles:

1. This permit does not authorize the capture, serious injury, or mortality of listed sea turtles. In the event that a turtle is captured, seriously harmed, or killed, the research must be immediately suspended and the Permits Division contacted by phone at (301)427-8401 or fax (301)713-0376 as soon as possible (See Appendix 4 for reporting sea turtle captures and interactions as described in Section E.2).
2. The permit holder must observe nets for sea turtles. To the maximum extent practicable, researchers must disentangle and release any live sea turtles captured during research.
3. Handle turtles according to procedures specified in 50 CFR 223.206 (d)(1)(i). Use care when handling live animals to minimize any possible injury;

4. Use appropriate resuscitation techniques on any comatose turtle prior to returning it to the water; and
5. When possible, transfer injured animals to rehabilitation facilities and allow them an appropriate period of recovery before returning to the wild.

j. Manatee:

1. *In waters where manatees are present:* The following conditions to the permit are provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to prevent adverse interactions with endangered manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*):
 - i. Vessel personnel must be informed that it is illegal to intentionally or unintentionally harm, harass, or otherwise "take" manatees, and to obey all posted manatee protection speed zones, Federal manatee sanctuary and refuge restrictions, and other similar state and local regulations while conducting in-water activities. Such information shall be provided in writing to all vessel personnel prior to beginning the permitted research.
 - ii. Crew involved in research activities must wear polarized sunglasses to reduce glare while on the water and keep a look out for manatee. The crew shall include at least one member experienced in and dedicated to watching for manatee during all in-water activities.
 - iii. All vessels engaged in netting and trapping shall operate at the slowest speed consistent with those activities.
 - iv. All netting and trapping shall be restricted to the hours between one-half hour after sunrise to one-half hour before sunset.
 - v. Rope attaching floats to nets or traps shall not have kinks or contain slack that could present an entanglement hazard to manatee.
 - vi. All nets and traps must be continuously monitored. Netting activities must cease if a manatee is sighted within a 100-foot radius of the research vessel or the net, and may resume only when the animal is no longer within this safety zone, or 30 minutes has elapsed since the manatee was last observed within the safety zone.
2. *If a manatee is accidentally captured:*
 - i. Researchers will immediately discontinue netting operations if a manatee is captured and the boat motor will be turned off or idled.
 - ii. Attempts to verify that an animal is entangled in gear will take place, keeping in mind that manatees occasionally appear in netting operations but are not entangled; or that they may also test or push against nets without entanglement.

- iii. For manatees entangled in gear, project personnel shall exercise extreme caution when in the presence of captured animals, understanding that animals are under duress and are known to injure people and damage nets and other gear.
- iv. Research staff must devote all efforts to freeing the animal, if able to do so without injuring themselves or the animals, remembering that a manatee must breathe and surface approximately every 4 minutes. The PI must brief all research participants to ensure that they understand that freeing a manatee can be dangerous. This briefing will caution people to keep fingers out of the nets, that no jewelry should be worn, that they be careful to stay away from the manatee's paddle, and that they give the animal adequate time and room to breathe as they are freeing it.
- v. Release tension on the net to allow the animal the opportunity to free itself. Exercise caution when attempting to assist the animal in freeing itself. Manatee are docile animals but can thrash violently if captured or become entangled in a net. A 1,200 to 3,500 pound manatee can cause extensive damage to nets while trying to escape or breathe, so quick action is essential to protect both the manatee and the net. Ensure that the animal does not escape with net still attached to it.
- vi. Immediately contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement, 1-888-404-FWCC [3922] to report any incidents. If a manatee is injured, the sooner the animal receives treatment, the better its chance of recovery.
- vii. Any collision/injury of a manatee must also be reported immediately to the appropriate State or Commonwealth wildlife at the above contact numbers. Within 24 hours of an accidental manatee capture, captures must also be reported to manatee staff at the USFWS's North Florida Ecological Services Office at 904-731-3336, and also emailed to FWC at ImperiledSpecies@myFWC.com.
- viii. Also contact NMFS (Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at 301-427-8401) as soon as possible.
- ix. Also, to report any gear or vessel interactions, or sighting of manatees, contact Jim Valade (USFWS) at 904.731.3116 (weekdays); fax 904-731-3045. Interactions with manatee should be documented with location, date, estimated size, water & air temp, any scar patterns and photos if possible (See Appendix 5: Manatee Sighting Report).

- k. Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV), Coral Communities, Live or Hard Bottom Ecosystems:
1. Researchers must take all practicable steps including the use of charts, GIS, sonar, fish finders, or other electronic devices to determine characteristics and suitability of bottom habitat prior to using gear to identify SAV, coral communities, and live/hard bottom habitats and avoid setting gear in such areas.
 2. No gear may be set, anchored on, or pulled across SAV, coral or hard/live bottom habitats.
 3. If research gear is lost, diligent efforts would be made to recover the lost gear to avoid further damage to benthic habitat and impacts related to “ghost fishing.”
 4. Johnson’s sea grass and critical habitat. No research activities will be conducted over, on, or immediately adjacent to Johnson’s sea grass or in Johnson’s sea grass critical habitat.
- l. Non-listed Bycatch: Researchers must attempt to release alive all incidentally captured species (e.g., fishes) as soon as possible.
- m. Listed Sturgeon Interaction (Atlantic, Gulf or Shortnose sturgeon):
1. If a sturgeon is incidentally captured, it must be handled as outlined by NOAA sturgeon research protocols (Kahn and Mohead 2010); and it minimally be PIT tagged, genetically sampled, and released. This information must be provided to NMFS as described below.
 2. NMFS requests interactions with sturgeon (alive or salvaged) are reported to Kelly Shotts (NMFS PR) by phone at 727-824-5312 (Kelly.Shotts@noaa.gov). This report should contain descriptions of take, (including lethal take or salvage), location, and final disposition of the sturgeon. Specimens or body parts of dead sturgeon should be preserved (preferably on ice or refrigeration) until sampling and disposal procedures are discussed with NMFS.
 3. The researcher must consult with NMFS to apply for coverage for incidental takes of Atlantic or shortnose sturgeon before proceeding with sawfish research in the St Marys and St Johns River watersheds.
- n. Crocodiles and Alligators: The following conditions to the permit are provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to prevent adverse interactions with these listed species.
1. If a crocodile or alligator is incidentally captured, if able to do so without injuring themselves or the animals, devote all research staff efforts to freeing the animal. Remember that a crocodile or alligator must breathe and surface approximately every 20 or 30 minutes. Once it has been established a crocodile or alligator is captured, attempts to raise the animal’s head out of water to breathe and to see the extent of entanglement should be attempted. The animal’s

snout/head should be kept out of the water to prevent it from drowning, but also to allow access to the net to cut the animal loose. A knife tied to a long pole or stick is useful to cut net while maintaining a safe distance from the crocodile or alligator. The Permit Holder must brief all research participants to ensure that they understand that freeing a crocodile or alligator can be dangerous.

2. As appropriate, turn off the vessel or put engine in neutral.
 3. Release tension on the net to allow the animal the opportunity to free itself. Exercise caution when attempting to assist the animal in freeing itself. Ensure that the animal does not escape with net still attached to it.
 4. If a crocodile is taken the Permit Holder shall notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Law Enforcement Office in Miami, Florida (305-526-2610) and the Ecological Services Sub Office at Big Pine Key, Florida (305-872-2753). Secondary notification must be made to the FWC, South Region, Lakeland Florida (1-800-282-8002). A summary incident report shall be submitted to the USFWS, Field Supervisor, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 (772-562-3909).
- o. No activities are allowed in Sanctuary Preservation Areas, Special Use (Research Only) Areas, or Ecological Reserves of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary without prior permit or approval (Sanctuary Superintendent).
6. The Permit Holder must comply with the following for biological samples acquired or possessed under authority of this permit.
- a. The Permit Holder is ultimately responsible for compliance with this permit and applicable regulations related to the samples unless the samples are permanently transferred according to NMFS regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222.308).
 - b. The Permit Holder must receive written approval from the Permits Division to use samples for purposes not related to the permitted objectives.
 - c. Samples must be maintained according to accepted curatorial standards and must be labeled with a unique identifier (e.g., alphanumeric code) that is connected to on-site records with information identifying the:
 - i. species and, where known, age and sex
 - ii. date of collection, acquisition, or import
 - iii. type of sample (e.g., blood, skin, bone)
 - iv. origin (i.e., where collected or imported from)

- d. Biological samples belong to the Permit Holder and may be temporarily transferred to Authorized Recipients indentified in Appendix 2 without additional written authorization, for analysis or curation related to the objectives of this permit. The Permit Holder remains responsible for the samples, including any reporting requirements.
- e. The Permit Holder may request approval of additional Authorized Recipients for analysis and curation of samples related to the permit objectives by submitting a written request to the Permits Division specifying:
 - i. the name and affiliation of the recipient
 - ii. the address of the recipient
 - iii. the types of samples to be sent (species, tissue type)
 - iv. whether the disposition is analysis or curation
- f. Sample recipients must have written authorization from a NMFS Regional Office prior to permanent transfer of samples and transfers for purposes not related to the objectives of this permit.
- g. Samples cannot be bought or sold, including parts transferred through written authorization by a NMFS Regional Office

C. Qualifications, Responsibilities, and Designation of Personnel

- 1. At the discretion of the Permit Holder, the following Researchers may participate in the conduct of the permitted activities in accordance with their qualifications and the limitations specified herein:
 - a. Principal Investigator – John Carlson
 - b. Co-Investigator(s) –See Appendix 2 for list of names and corresponding activities.
 - c. Research Assistants – personnel identified by the Permit Holder or Principal Investigator and qualified to act pursuant to Conditions C.2, C.3, and C.4 of this permit
- 2. Individuals conducting permitted activities must possess qualifications commensurate with their roles and responsibilities. The roles and responsibilities of personnel operating under this permit are as follows:
 - a. The Permit Holder is ultimately responsible for activities of individuals operating under the authority of this permit. Where the Permit Holder is an institution/facility, the Responsible Party is the person at the institution/facility who is responsible for the supervision of the Principal Investigator.

- b. The Principal Investigator (PI) is the individual primarily responsible for the taking, import, export and related activities conducted under the permit. The PI must be on site during activities conducted under this permit unless a Co-Investigator named in Condition C.1 is present to act in place of the PI.
 - c. Co-Investigators (CIs) are individuals who are qualified to conduct activities authorized by the permit, for the objectives described in the application, without the on-site supervision of the PI. CIs assume the role and responsibility of the PI in the PI's absence.
 - d. Research Assistants (RAs) are individuals who work under the direct and on-site supervision of the PI or a CI. RAs cannot conduct permitted activities in the absence of the PI or a CI.
3. Personnel involved in permitted activities must be reasonable in number and essential to conduct of the permitted activities. Essential personnel are limited to:
 - a. Individuals who perform a function directly supportive of and necessary to the permitted activity (including operation of vessels or aircraft essential to conduct of the activity);
 - b. Individuals included as backup for those personnel essential to the conduct of the permitted activity; and
 - c. Individuals included for training purposes.
4. Persons who require state or Federal licenses to conduct activities authorized under the permit (*e.g.*, veterinarians, pilots) must be duly licensed when undertaking such activities.
5. Permitted activities may be conducted aboard vessels or aircraft, or in cooperation with individuals or organizations, engaged in commercial activities, provided the commercial activities are not conducted simultaneously with the permitted activities.
6. The Permit Holder cannot require or receive direct or indirect compensation from a person approved to act as PI, CI, or RA under this permit in return for requesting such approval from the Permits Division.
7. The Permit Holder or PI may designate additional CIs without prior approval from the Chief, Permits Division provided:
 - a. a copy of the letter designating the individual and specifying their duties under the permit is forwarded to the Permits Division by facsimile or email on the day of designation;

- b. the copy of the letter is accompanied by a summary of the individual's qualifications to conduct and supervise the permitted activities; and
 - c. the Permit Holder acknowledges that the designation is subject to review and revocation by the Chief, Permits Division.
8. Where the Permit Holder is an institution/facility, the Responsible Party may request a change of PI by submitting a request to the Chief, Permits Division that includes a description of the individual's qualifications to conduct and oversee the activities authorized under this permit.
9. Submit requests to add CIs or change the PI by one of the following:
- the online system at <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>
 - an email attachment to the permit analyst for this permit
 - a hard copy mailed or faxed to the Chief, Permits Division

D. Possession of Permit

1. This permit cannot be transferred or assigned to any other person.
2. The Permit Holder and persons operating under the authority of this permit must possess a copy of this permit when:
- a. engaged in a permitted activity;
 - b. a protected species is in transit incidental to a permitted activity; and
 - c. a protected species taken under the permit is in the possession of such persons.
3. A duplicate copy of this permit must accompany or be attached to the container, package, enclosure, or other means of containment in which a protected species or protected species part is placed for purposes of storage, transit, supervision or care.

E. Reports

1. The Permit Holder must submit annual, final, and incident reports containing the information and in the format specified by the Permits Division.
- a. Reports must be submitted to the Permits Division by one of the following:
 - the online system at <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>
 - an email attachment to the permit analyst for this permit
 - a hard copy mailed or faxed to the Chief, Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)427-8401; fax (301)713-0376
 -
 - b. You must contact your permit analyst for a reporting form if you do not submit reports through the online system.

2. Incident reports: must be submitted within two weeks of serious injury and mortality events or exceeding authorized takes, as specified in Conditions A.2 and B.1
 - a. The incident report must include a complete description of the events and identification of steps that will be taken to reduce the potential for additional serious injury and research-related mortality or exceedence of authorized take.
 - b. In addition to the written report, the Permit Holder must contact the Permits Division by phone (301-427-8401) as soon as possible, but no later than within two business days of the incident.
 - c. The Permits Division may grant authorization to resume permitted activities based on review of the incident report and in consideration of the Terms and Conditions of this permit.
3. Annual reports describing activities conducted during the previous permit year from February 13 to February 12) must:
 - a. be submitted by May 12 each year for which the permit is valid; and
 - b. include a tabular accounting of takes and a narrative description of activities and effects.
4. A final report summarizing activities over the life of the permit must be submitted by August 12, 2019, or, if the research concludes prior to permit expiration, within 180 days of completion of the research.
5. Research results must be published or otherwise made available to the scientific community in a reasonable period of time. Copies of technical reports, conference abstracts, papers, or publications resulting from permitted research must be submitted the Permits Division.

F. Notification and Coordination

1. The Permit Holder must provide written notification of planned field work to the applicable NMFS Region at least two weeks prior to initiation of each field trip/season. If there will be multiple field trips/seasons in a permit year, a single summary notification may be submitted per year.
 - a. Notification must include the
 - i. locations of the intended field study and/or survey routes
 - ii. estimated dates of activities
 - iii. number and roles of participants (for example: PI, CI, veterinarian, boat driver, safety diver, animal restrainer, Research Assistant “in training”)

- b. Notification must be sent to the following Assistant Regional Administrator(s) for Protected Resources
Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701;
phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309
Email(*preferred*): nmfs.ser.research.notification@noaa.gov
2. To the maximum extent practical, the Permit Holder must coordinate permitted activities with activities of other Permit Holders conducting the same or similar activities on the same species, in the same locations, or at the same times of year to avoid unnecessary disturbance of animals. Contact the applicable Regional Office(s) listed in F.1.b for information about coordinating with other Permit Holders.
3. Researchers must comply with protocols provided by the Regional Administrators related to coordination of research, including additional measures deemed necessary to minimize unnecessary duplication, harassment, or other adverse impacts from multiple permit holders.

G. Observers and Inspections

1. NMFS may review activities conducted under this permit. At the request of NMFS, the Permit Holder must cooperate with any such review by:
 - a. Allowing an employee of NOAA or other person designated by the Director, NMFS Office of Protected Resources to observe permitted activities; and
 - b. Providing all documents or other information relating to the permitted activities.

H. Modification, Suspension, and Revocation

1. Permits are subject to suspension, revocation, modification, and denial in accordance with the provisions of subpart D [Permit Sanctions and Denials] of 15 CFR part 904.
2. The Director, NMFS Office of Protected Resources may modify, suspend, or revoke this permit in whole or in part:
 - a. In order to make the permit consistent with a change made after the date of permit issuance with respect to applicable regulations prescribed under section 4 of the ESA;
 - b. In a case in which a violation of the terms and conditions of the permit is found;
 - c. In response to a written request⁶ from the Permit Holder;

⁶ The Permit Holder may request changes to the permit related to: the objectives or purposes of the permitted activities; the species or number of animals taken; and the location, time, or manner of taking or importing protected

- d. If NMFS determines that the application or other information pertaining to the permitted activities (including, but not limited to, reports pursuant to Section E of this permit and information provided to NOAA personnel pursuant to Section G of this permit) includes false information; and
 - e. If NMFS determines that the authorized activities will operate to the disadvantage of threatened or endangered species or are otherwise no longer consistent with the purposes and policy in Section 2 of the ESA.
3. Issuance of this permit does not guarantee or imply that NMFS will issue or approve subsequent permits or modifications for the same or similar activities requested by the Permit Holder, including those of a continuing nature.

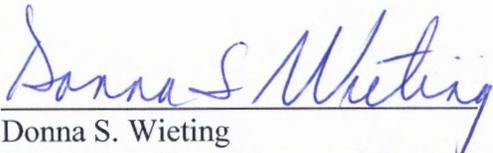
I. Penalties and Permit Sanctions

1. A person who violates a provision of this permit, the ESA, or the regulations at 50 CFR 222-226 is subject to civil and criminal penalties, permit sanctions, and forfeiture as authorized under the ESA, and 15 CFR part 904.
2. NMFS shall be the sole arbiter of whether a given activity is within the scope and bounds of the authorization granted in this permit.
 - a. The Permit Holder must contact the Permits Division for verification before conducting the activity if they are unsure whether an activity is within the scope of the permit.
 - b. Failure to verify, where NMFS subsequently determines that an activity was outside the scope of the permit, may be used as evidence of a violation of the permit, the ESA, and applicable regulations in any enforcement actions.

species. Such requests must be submitted in writing to the Permits Division in the format specified in the application instructions.

J. Acceptance of Permit

1. In signing this permit, the Permit Holder:
 - a. Agrees to abide by all terms and conditions set forth in the permit, all restrictions and relevant regulations under 50 CFR Parts 222-226, and all restrictions and requirements under the ESA;
 - b. Acknowledges that the authority to conduct certain activities specified in the permit is conditional and subject to authorization by the Office Director; and
 - c. Acknowledges that this permit does not relieve the Permit Holder of the responsibility to obtain any other permits, or comply with any other Federal, State, local, or international laws or regulations.



Donna S. Wieting
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service

FEB 12 2014

Date Issued

Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.
Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
Responsible Party

Date Effective

K. Acknowledgement of Understanding

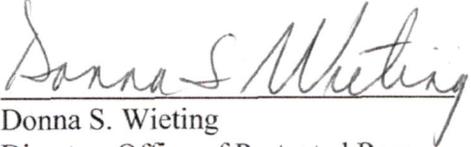
1. As the individual responsible for the on-site supervision of permitted activities, I acknowledge I have read and understand the terms and conditions of this permit.

John Carlson, Principal Investigator
National Marine Fisheries Service

Date

J. Acceptance of Permit

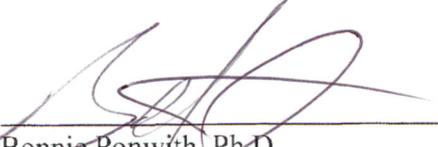
1. In signing this permit, the Permit Holder:
 - a. Agrees to abide by all terms and conditions set forth in the permit, all restrictions and relevant regulations under 50 CFR Parts 222-226, and all restrictions and requirements under the ESA;
 - b. Acknowledges that the authority to conduct certain activities specified in the permit is conditional and subject to authorization by the Office Director; and
 - c. Acknowledges that this permit does not relieve the Permit Holder of the responsibility to obtain any other permits, or comply with any other Federal, State, local, or international laws or regulations.



Donna S. Wieting
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service

FEB 12 2014

Date Issued

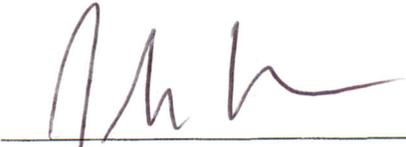


Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.
Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
Responsible Party

18 Feb 2014
Date Effective

K. Acknowledgement of Understanding

1. As the individual responsible for the on-site supervision of permitted activities, I acknowledge I have read and understand the terms and conditions of this permit.

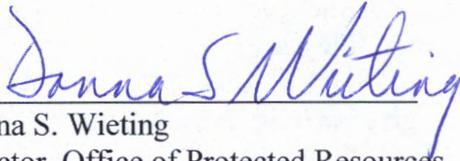


John Carlson, Principal Investigator
National Marine Fisheries Service

18 Feb 2014
Date

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Donna S. Wieting
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service

FEB 12 2014

Date Issued

Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.
Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
Responsible Party

Date Effective

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1. As the individual responsible for the on-site supervision of permitted activities, I acknowledge I have read and understand the terms and conditions of this permit.

John Carlson, Principal Investigator
National Marine Fisheries Service

Date

Appendix 1: Tables Specifying the Kind(s) of Protected Species, Location(s), and Manner of Taking

Table 1: Annual takes of smalltooth sawfish under Permit No. 17787. Activities may take place year-round, in state and Federal waters of Florida, primarily in the region of the Florida coast from Naples to Key West, encompassing the Ten Thousand Islands, Florida Bay, and Everglades National Park.

Size Classes: Neonate, <150cm stretched TL; Juvenile, 150-350cm stretched TL; Adult, >350cm stretched TL.

SPECIES	LIFESTAGE	EXPECTED TAKE	OBSERVE/COLLECT METHOD	PROCEDURES	DETAILS
Sawfish, smalltooth	Adult/Juvenile	20	Longline	Instrument, external (e.g., VHF, satellite); Instrument, internal (e.g., VHF, sonic); Mark, Floy T-bar; Mark, M-tag; Mark, PIT tag; Measure; Sample, blood ; Sample, fin clip	Other capture methods include: Gillnet, rod and reel, and seine. 50 blood samples would be taken over the life of the permit. Juvenile/Adult sawfish would receive one internal tag and one external SPOT and one external PAT tag.
Sawfish, smalltooth	Neonate	50	Net, Gill	Instrument, internal (e.g., VHF, sonic); Mark, dart; Mark, PIT tag; Measure; Photograph/Video; Sample, fin clip	Other capture methods include: rod and reel and seine. Minimum size for fish receiving internal tags would be 65cm STL.
Sawfish, smalltooth	Neonate	50	Net, Gill	Mark, dart; Mark, PIT tag; Measure; Photograph/Video; Sample, blood ; Sample, fin clip	Other capture methods include: rod and reel and seine. 20 blood samples would be taken over the life of the permit.
Sawfish, smalltooth	Any	20	Other	Salvage (carcass, tissue, parts)	May retrieve from any Florida waters

Appendix 2:

Format for submitting annual and final reports

Reports may be submitted

- through the online system at <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>
- by email attachment to the permit analyst for this permit
- by hard copy mailed or faxed to the Chief, Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Suite 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)427-8401; fax (301)713-0376

The following is only an EXAMPLE of the report form. If you do not intend to submit your report online, please contact your permit analyst for an electronic report form to fill out and return.

Date: _____ **Reporting Period:** _____

Permit Number: _____ **Permit Holder's Name:** _____

Contact Name: _____ **Contact Email:** _____

Contact Phone #: _____

(Contact = person submitting report)

Part I: Take Tables. Enter the actual number of animals taken during this reporting period.

You will be asked to complete a table that looks like the Project Take Table in Appendix 1 of your permit, with an additional column for you to enter the “actual number of animals taken” in the last permit year. You must contact your permit analyst for an electronic version of this table or use the on-line report system.

NOTE: If you conducted activities or took protected species for which you were not authorized, you must enter them on separate lines of the table and explain exactly what happened (see Part II below).

Part II: Narrative. You will be asked to provide responses to the following :

1. Describe problems or unforeseen effects encountered during the permitted activities and any steps taken or proposed to resolve such problems.
2. Describe what measures were taken to minimize effects of permitted activities on animals and the effectiveness of these measures.
3. If animals were unintentionally injured or killed, describe the circumstances. Describe how dead animals were disposed of if not in the way described in the permit.

4. Describe the physical condition of animals taken and used in the permitted activities.
5. Describe the effects permitted activities had on animals, including any unforeseen responses or effects.
6. Describe steps taken to coordinate the permitted activities with other permit holders.
7. Summarize preliminary findings. Did you accomplish the goals of your permitted activities?
8. List titles of reports, publications, etc. resulting from this reporting period. Attach copies of any final documents as available. If these documents are not yet available, indicate when you anticipate that they will be completed and submitted. When reports and publications become available, send to the Permits Division and include the permit number in correspondence.
9. Note the number and type of non-permitted species caught, harassed, or otherwise taken, and the observed effects of such taking.
10. Note any incidental (non-research related) use of photographs, film, or other images (e.g., on websites, in commercial publications or documentaries).
11. Additional findings, results, or information on which you would like to report or comment.

Appendix 3: NMFS-Approved Personnel and Authorized Recipients for Permit No. 17787.

The following individuals are approved to act as Co-Investigators pursuant to the terms and conditions under Section C (Qualifications, Responsibilities, and Designation of Personnel) of this permit.

Name of Co-Investigator	Activities
Dana Bethea	All research activities
R. Dean Grubbs	All research activities
Kelcee Smith	All research activities
Beau Yeiser	Salvage of dead animals

Biological samples authorized for collection or acquisition in Table 1 of Appendix 1 may be transferred to the following Authorized Recipients for the specified disposition, consistent with Condition B.6 of the permit:

Sample Type	Disposition	Authorized Recipient
Any (blood, tissue, biopsy, carcass, etc.)	analysis	Demian Chapman (SUNY Stony Brook)
Any (blood, tissue, biopsy, carcass, etc.)	analysis	Kevin Feldheim (Field Museum of Chicago)
Blood	analysis	James Gelsleichter (University of North Florida)

SEA TURTLE LIFE HISTORY FORM

02/2010

CAPTURE INFORMATION

TRIP YEAR 20 MONTH DAY SET/HAUL/TOW SPECIMEN NUMBER BY TRIP GEAR TYPE: Longline Gill Net Trawl (note time in comments)GEAR DEPTH: Surface Midwater Bottom OtherTIME (24 hr) WATER TEMP (°F) LATITUDE deg min N / SLONGITUDE deg min E / W

Did turtle slide out/escape from gear? Y / N

Was turtle brought on board? Y / N

IDENTIFICATION (see back)

Number of Photos Taken? SPECIES: Leatherback Loggerhead Kemp's ridley Green Hawksbill Olive ridley
 Unidentified Hardshell UnknownCONDITION OF TURTLE AT CAPTURE Injured Uninjured Unknown

(Please check injury status above as well as condition below; complete condition evaluation on p. 2 for any not coded "alive")

 Previously dead Fresh dead/comatose/unresponsive Attempted resuscitation? Y / N Alive Unknown (describe) Other (describe)

IF GEAR IS A FORM OF HOOK AND LINE, COMPLETE THIS SECTION, AS APPLICABLE:

HOOK TYPE "J" Circle other (describe) SIZE /0

MANUFACTURER/STYLE NO. _____

DEGREE OFFSET °BAIT Squid Mackerel Sardine Unknown Other (describe) SIZE _____Caught on hook timer? Y / N If yes, fill in time elapsed Was light stick on hook? Y / N / U / Not Applicable If No, number of gangions to next light stick

Light stick type (circle): Chemical / LED

Light stick color (circle)? White, Pink, Blue, Green, Black, Red, Yellow, Purple, Other, Unknown

Number of gangions to next float

HOOK LOCATION (See Appendix in manual for descriptive figures)

(circle specific location; check box if specifics are not known; annotate drawing on reverse to indicate location as needed):

 Not Hooked Not Known if Hooked Hooked, but location totally UnknownInternal: Unknown, internal Swallowed (Esophagus) Hook visible? Visible to insertion point / Partial hook / Not visible Beak/Mouth (Circle one) Jaw Location (Check one) upper lower side (mouth only)Check one for mouth: tongue glottis roof of mouth jaw joint other (describe)External: Unknown, external Beak/Head/Neck Carapace/Plastron Front Flipper/Shoulder/Armpit Rear Flipper/Groin/Tail

Was hook removed from this animal? Y / N / Unknown / Not Applicable

Was animal entangled in gear? At capture? Y / N / Unknown At Release? Y / N / Unknown

How much gear (linear feet) was left on turtle when released? . ft. (estimated/measured)

MANATEE SIGHTING REPORT

Reporting Agency:

Sighting Case/File Number:

Name:

Address:

SIGHTING INFORMATION

Date:

Time:

City:

County:

State:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Waterway:

Reported by:

Reporter Address:

Reporter Phone Number:

Was the manatee alive or dead?:

Gender:

Size:

Estimated length of manatee:

Were photographs taken?:

If yes, please send to Nicole Adimey, 7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

Did the manatee have scars?:

If yes, please complete attached scar form and send to Nicole Adimey, 7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32256 or describe below.

Did the manatee have floating satellite tag?:

If yes, please describe below.

Was the sighting verified?:

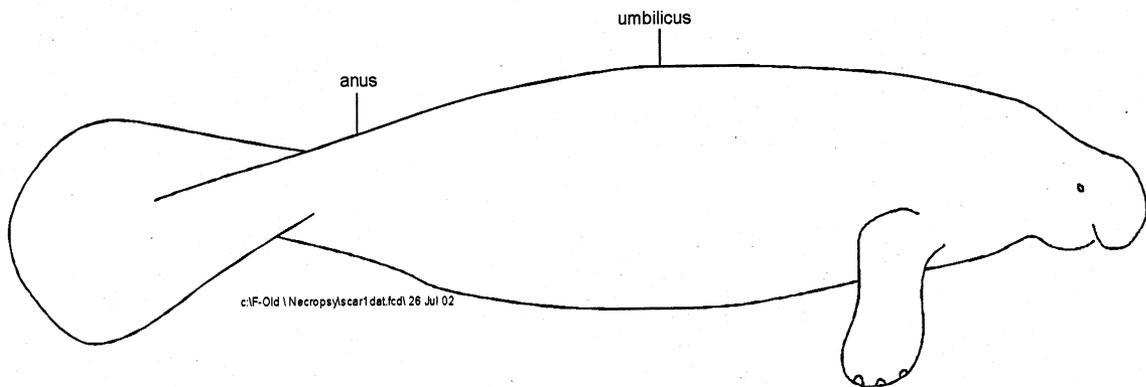
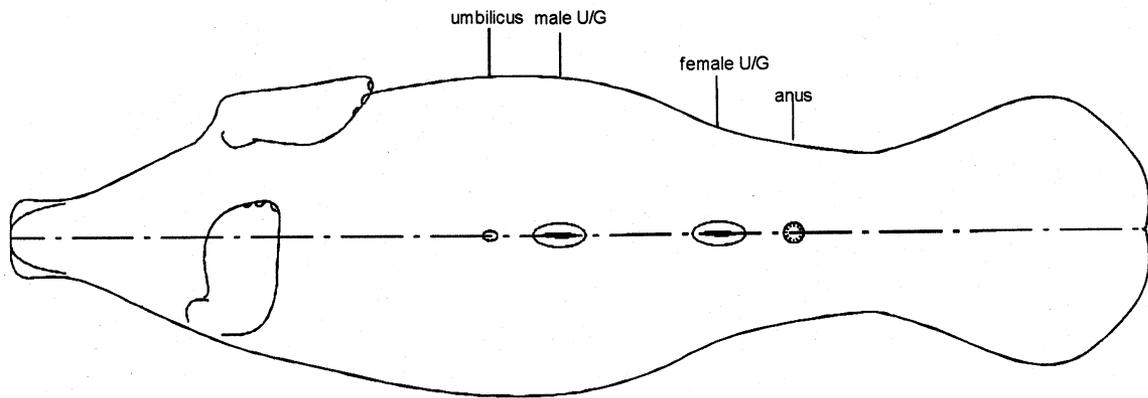
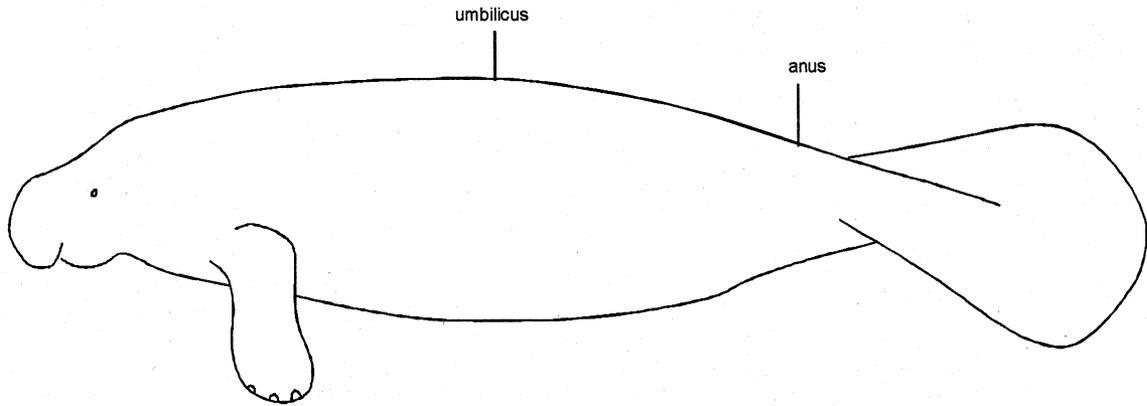
Verifier Name and Contact #:

Date and Time Verified:

Description of Incident:

Outcome:

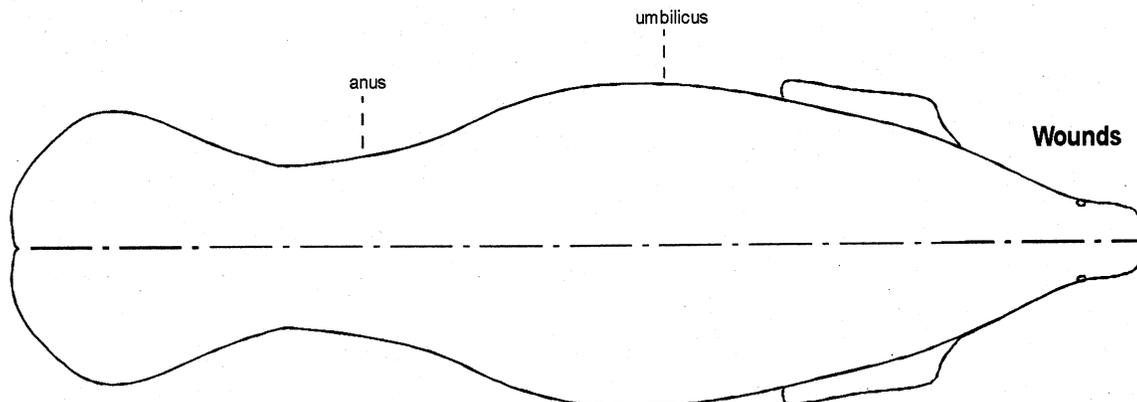
FIELD I.D. _____



Date _____

Field I.D. _____

c:\Manuels\scar2det\ 26 July 02



Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Length																				
Width																				
Depth																				
Distance																				

