

SECTION 6 - RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

This section is specifically intended for persons approved to conduct research, as identified under the "Authorized Research Projects" section of the permit, or for persons requesting to conduct research. Investigators may only conduct activities that are specifically described in the approved research proposal. Modifications on any aspect of an approved research project require written approval from FWC.

Marine turtle research proposals are reviewed by FWC's marine turtle program staff as well as outside reviewers with expertise in the subject area. Researchers should submit their requests for new research at least 90 days prior to the proposed beginning of the project.

Any studies involving the sacrifice of live animals or eggs or that involve the holding of species listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in excess of 45 days also require a federal permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (contact USFWS - Division of Endangered Species). The office is located in Atlanta, Georgia and can be reached at (404) 679-4176.

Any studies involving in-water research also requires a federal permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service (contact NMFS - Office of Protected Resources - Endangered Species Division). The Office is located in Silver Spring, Maryland and can be reached at (301) 713-1401. Information about endangered species permits can also be obtained via the NMFS web site at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/>.

When a NMFS permit is necessary for work that FWC is considering for a permit, FWC will allow a copy of the applicant's NMFS permit application to be substituted for the format given below. The applicant needs only to complete the NMFS permit application and provide FWC with a copy. FWC should also be copied on correspondence between NMFS and the applicant so that FWC may follow any concerns indicated by NMFS and how those concerns are resolved.

NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS

To request approval to conduct a research project, the principal investigator must submit a proposal to the Imperiled Species Management Section (ISM), 19100 SE Federal Highway, Tequesta, Florida 33469. Joint projects involving several investigators should be submitted as one proposal, with each component and the personnel involved in that component identified (a discussion of the project objectives should be done for the project as a whole, and specific experimental methods should be discussed by the investigators). The proposal must be detailed and specific and must include the following sections:

1. Title of the project.
2. Name of the principal investigator(s) and his/her qualifications and experience relative to the proposed research. Also include a list and relevant research experience for all personnel involved with the project, and a list of publications and grants pertinent to the specific project.

3. Identify whether the proposal is submitted as under-graduate thesis work, graduate thesis work, or other.
4. The date of the application.
5. Purpose/Justification – Identify how the proposed research will contribute to the recovery of marine turtle species in Florida, identifying specific tasks listed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery plans where possible.
6. Objectives – Provide a short summary of the project, including an identification of the species involved, a brief overview of the methods to be utilized including the experimental design and statistics, and specific objectives or questions related to the Marine Turtle Recovery tasks to be answered by the proposed research.
7. Methodology – Provide a detailed description of the experimental methods, including number of replicates, experimental design, methods for capturing, handling, tagging, and/or holding marine turtles. This section must also include the maximum number and species of animals needed and their expected fate.
8. Justification for proposed methodology – Present possible alternative methodologies and explain justification for proposed methodology.
9. Time frame for the study.
10. Study site(s) – Identify the specific areas where the proposed work will be accomplished.
11. Literature citations.
12. If the requested research is not associated with a specific permit, the PI must also complete and submit a Marine Turtle Permit Application.

AMENDMENTS TO APPROVED PROJECTS

Requests for modifications to previously approved research projects should address all applicable sections listed above including a detailed description of the proposed changes.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Annual Report(s): Renewal of an authorized research project is contingent upon receipt and approval of an annual report for each project. The annual report is due by the end of each calendar year and should be submitted with the permit renewal form. The following information should be included in the annual report for **each** project:

1. The title of the project [as it appears on the FWC marine turtle permit].
2. A detailed description of activities conducted, including the species and total number of animals collected/used, the manner of collection/use, and the dates and locations of collection/use.
3. Any preliminary analyses of the data.
4. A description of any problems and/or unforeseen effects which may have arisen during the research activities.
5. If mortality occurs, a brief narrative of the circumstances surrounding each injury or death and a description of the measures taken to correct the problem that caused the injury or death.
6. Steps that have been and will be taken to coordinate the research with that of other researchers.
7. An updated scope of work for the upcoming year(s). Please note that any requests for modifications to the research must be clearly identified.

Final Report(s): Within ninety (90) days of completion of the project the permit holder must submit three (3) copies of the final report to ISM (in Tequesta) summarizing the results and success of the research relative to its goals. The final report should have a title that matches the original title in the proposal, and sections for introduction, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited.