Dr. Steven Pennings  
Department of Biology and Biochemistry  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX 77204

Re: Letter of Permission (LOP) and Revocable License (RL) Request, GCE-14-2011, Long Term Monitoring of Salt Pans at Marsh Landing, Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mouth of the Duplin River, McIntosh County, Georgia. NWP #5.

Dear Dr. Pennings:

This Letter of Permission is in response to your request dated March 20, 2012 for continued monitoring and maintenance of a study area located at the edge of the Marsh Landing salt pan at the south end of Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, Georgia.

Sixteen permanent plots 1.5 x 2 m in area were marked out originally in 1997. Each plot is marked with approximately six 0.5 x 1 inch wooden stakes or 0.5–0.75 inch diameter PVC stakes. Since then the plots have been monitored annually to determine how changes in climate and sea level affect the size of the salt pan and the vegetation bordering the salt pan. Two people visit the plots once a year for 3 hours for purposes of monitoring and maintenance. All stakes will be removed at the conclusion of the monitoring program which is currently open-ended in time duration.

The Department authorizes the continued monitoring and maintenance of a study area located at the edge of the Marsh Landing salt pan at the south end of Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, Georgia as depicted in the attached description provided all Best Management Practices (BMPs) be used to prevent erosion and sedimentation at the site and to protect Coastal Marshlands. During the study period no equipment, materials, or debris may be disposed of in jurisdictional marsh areas. No motorized vehicles may be operated in jurisdictional marsh areas. Any incidental impacts associated with this project must be rectified by fully restoring areas to their pre-construction topographic and vegetative states. Any damage to marsh vegetation that has not recovered naturally during the anticipated recovery period will be repaired by a method acceptable to the Department.

Please find enclosed a fully executed revocable license for the above-described project. This license serves as authorization to utilize state owned tidal water bottoms for your project as per the dimensions and configuration described. Any change in the use, location, dimensions, or configuration of the approved project, without prior notification and approval from this office.
could result on the revocation of this license and in required removal of the materials and related structures.

This authorization does not relieve you from obtaining any other required federal, state, or local permits. Tidal water bottoms and marshlands of coastal Georgia are public trust lands controlled by the State, except for such lands where a validated Crown Grant or State Grant exists. The construction of the project proposed for this license must be completed within 3 years from the date of issuance of the license. Otherwise, action will be initiated to revoke the license. If you have any questions you may contact John Wynne @ (912) 266-0277.

Sincerely,

Brad Gane
Chief
Ecological Services Section

Enclosures: Description and Location Map

cc: file # (040512.1058am_LOPGCE14)
STATE OF GEORGIA
3-YEAR REVOCABLE LICENSE REQUEST

APPLICANTS NAME(S): Steven C. Pennings, Department of Biology, University of Houston

MAILING ADDRESS: 4800 Calhoun Road Houston TX 77204
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION: South end of Sapelo Island

COUNTY: McIntosh WATERWAY: Mouth of Duplin River DATE: 3/20/2012

LOT, BLOCK & SUBDIVISION NAME FROM DEED: NA

A. G. "Spud" Woodward, DIRECTOR
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, Georgia 31520-8687

Dear Mr. Woodward:

I am making application for a permit with the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Savannah District. I understand that the issuance of such a permit will not relieve me of the obligation to obtain authorization from the State of Georgia since the proposed project would constitute an encroachment on the beds of tidewaters which are State-owned property. Accordingly, I hereby request that I be granted a revocable license from the State of Georgia. Attached hereto and made a part of this request is a copy of the plans and description of the project that will be the subject of such a license. I certify that all information submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and understand that willful misrepresentation or falsification is punishable by law.

I understand that if permission from the State is granted, it will be a revocable license and will not constitute a license coupled with an interest. I acknowledge that this revocable license does not resolve any actual or potential disputes regarding the ownership of, or rights in, or over the property upon which the subject project is proposed, and shall not be construed as recognizing or denying any such rights or interests. I further acknowledge that such a license would relate only to the property interests of the State and would not obviate the necessity of obtaining any other State license, permit or authorization required by State law. I recognize that I waive my right of expectation of privacy and I do not have the permission of the State of Georgia to proceed with such project until the Commissioner of DNR has signed a copy of this request.

Sincerely,

By: ________________________________
(Applicant), title if applicable

By: ________________________________
(Mark A. Allen, Director)
(Applicant), title if applicable

Attachment

The State of Georgia hereby grants you a revocable license not coupled with an interest as provided in your request. This area may now or in the future be utilized by boats employing power drawn nets under the provisions for commercial or sport bait shrimping. In its occupancy and use of the premises, licensee shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, gender, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability. This covenant by licensee may be enforced by termination of this license, by injunction, and by any other remedy available at law to the Department. The project proposed for this license must be completed within 3 years of the date of issuance of the license and must be maintained in serviceable condition. Otherwise, action will be initiated to revoke this license and all structure must be removed immediately at the licensee’s expense.

STATE OF GEORGIA
Office of the Governor

By: ________________________________
(Paul B. Davis, Commissioner-DNR)

DATE: APR 6 2012

Revised 12/2010
Sapelo Research Application Form


Provide a brief title for web display

Long term monitoring of salt pans at Marsh Landing

Investigator Information

On Island Sponsor: GCE SINERR UGAMI GADNR

Principal Investigator: Steven C. Pennings

Home Institution: University of Houston

Award Information: GCE-LTER project, total award $4,920,000

Mailing Address: Department of Biology and Biochemistry

University of Houston

Houston, Texas 77204-5513

Phone Number: (713) 743-2989

E-mail Address: scpennin@central.uh.edu

Co-investigators:

Briefly describe the project goals and methodology

I installed sixteen permanent plots (1.5 x 2 m) at the edge of the Marsh Landing salt pan in 1997. I have been monitoring the vegetation in these plots annually to determine how changes in climate and sea level affect the size of the salt pan and the vegetation bordering the salt pan.

Where will the project be located?

Just north of the Marsh Landing road, in the salt pan, approximately at 31o 25'02.20N; 81o17'33.87W based on google earth.

How will you provide GPS coordinates for study sites?

I will arrange with my research sponsor to collect and register GPS coordinates.

What are the expected start and end dates of the project?

Start Date: 01/01/1997 End Date: (ongoing)

How many people will access the site and at what frequency?

Two people, once a year, for 3 hours.

Please list keywords (as many as are appropriate) that describe your project:

Taxonomic/Functional group: plants
Organisms: Spartina, Juncus, Salicornia, Borrchia
Habitat type: marsh
Measurements: population density, population diversity
Study theme: plant ecology
Likely long-term impacts of the study: no long-term impacts

What equipment will be deployed in the field?

Each plot is marked with about six short wooden or pvc stakes.

Will plants or animals be collected as part of this study?
What are the likely impacts of the project on the site?

None. Once the monitoring stops, stakes will be removed.

Will the project design include boardwalks? If not, explain why not.

No. The site is visited so infrequently that boardwalks are not needed. The salt pan is firm enough that we leave no footprints, and we walk in unvegetated areas.

How long will impacts persist after the research is concluded?

No impacts expected. When stakes are removed, the holes left behind will collapse and fill within a few days.

Study Area Map:

Files attached to this application

GCE-14-2011_GPS_GCE14_Pennings.zip (Zip archive, 12.09 kb, submitted 08/03/2011)