

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Notice of Solicitation for Sea Grant Review Panelists**

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) National Sea Grant Review Panel.

ACTION: Notice of Solicitation for Sea Grant Review Panelists.

SUMMARY: This notice responds to the National Sea Grant College Program Act, at 33 U.S.C. 1128, which requires the Secretary of Commerce to solicit nominations at least once a year for membership on the Sea Grant Review Panel. This advisory committee provides advice on the implementation of the National Sea Grant College Program.

DATES: Resumes should be sent to the address specified and must be received by 30 days from publication.

ADDRESSES: Dr. Ronald C. Baird, Director, National Sea Grant College Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11716, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald Baird of the National Sea Grant College Program at the address given above, telephone (301) 713-2448 or fax number (301) 713-1031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 209 of the Act establishes a Sea Grant Review Panel to advise the Secretary of Commerce, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program on the implementation of the Sea Grant Program. The panel provides advice on such matters as:

(a) the Sea Grant Fellowship Program; (b) applications or proposals for, and performance under, grants and contracts awarded under the Sea Grant Program Improvement Act of 1976, as amended at 33 U.S.C. 1124;

(c) the designation and operation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes; and the operation of the sea grant program;

(d) the formulation and application of the planning guidelines and priorities under 33 U.S.C. 1123 (a) and (c)(1); and

(e) such other matters as the Secretary refers to the panel for review and advice.

The Panel is to consist of 15 voting members composed as follows: Not less than eight of the voting members of the panel should be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields included in marine science. The other

voting members shall be individuals who by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in, or representative of, education, extension service, state government, industry, economics, planning, or any other activity which is appropriate to, and important for, any effort to enhance the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, or conservation of ocean and coastal resources. No individual is eligible to be a voting member of the panel if the individual is (a) the director of a sea grant college, sea grant regional consortium, or sea grant program, (b) an applicant for or beneficiary (as determined by the Secretary) of any grant or contract under 33 U.S.C. 1124 or (c) a full-time officer or employee of the United States. The Director of the National Sea Grant College Program and one Director of a Sea Grant Program also serve as non-voting members. Panel members are appointed for a 3-year term.

Dated: April 11, 2001.

Louisa Koch,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 040601G]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comment.

SUMMARY: NMFS received an application for modification 1 of incidental take permit 1233 (Permit) from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). As required by the ESA, IDFG's modification application includes a conservation plan (Plan) designed to minimize and mitigate any such take of endangered or threatened species. The Permit modification application is for the incidental take of ESA-listed adult and juvenile salmonids associated with otherwise lawful recreational fisheries on non-listed species in the Snake River and its tributaries in the State of Idaho. The duration of the existing Permit and Plan is 5 years, expiring on December

31, 2004. NMFS also announces the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Permit modification application. This document serves to notify the public of the availability for comment of the permit modification application and the associated draft EA. All comments received will become part of the public record and will be available for review pursuant to the ESA.

DATES: Written comments on the Permit modification application, Plan, and draft EA must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on May 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the application, Plan, or draft EA should be addressed to Herbert Pollard, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 10215 West Emerald Street, Suite 180, Boise, ID 83704. Comments may also be sent via fax to (208) 378-5699. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet. Comments received will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by calling (208) 378-5614.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Herbert Pollard, Boise, ID, at phone number: (208) 378-5614, fax: (208) 378-5699, or e-mail:

Herbert.Pollard@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is relevant to the Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Snake River fall chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Snake River sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), and Snake River steelhead (*O. mykiss*) ESUs.

Background

On May 26, 2000, NMFS issued permit 1233 to Idaho for conduct of recreational fisheries managed by IDFG during 2001 through 2004 on non-listed species in the Snake River and its tributaries in the State of Idaho. Permit 1233 authorizes IDFG an incidental take of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) in recreational fisheries managed by the State of Idaho.

IDFG requests a modification to permit 1233 to modify timing of currently authorized fisheries, to expand currently authorized fishing areas, and to include authorization of take of listed steelhead. The fishery area

in the Clearwater River would be expanded to include the South Fork Clearwater River. The fishery area in the Little Salmon River would be expanded from the current 4 mi (6.4 km) upstream to approximately 25 mi (40.2 km). Two additional areas would be opened for chinook fishing: The Salmon River from its mouth 30 mi (48.3 km) upstream to the mouth of the Little Salmon River, and approximately 60 mi (96.6 km) of the Snake River from the mouth of the Imnaha River upstream to Hells Canyon Dam. For modification 1, IDFG also requests an additional incidental take of adult, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with the requested expanded and additional fishery areas.

IDFG also requests authorization for take of adult, threatened, naturally produced Snake River steelhead incidental to the currently authorized fisheries and the requested modification. At the time permit 1233 was originally issued, protective regulations for threatened Snake River steelhead under section 4(d) of the ESA had not been promulgated by NMFS. Protective regulations were subsequently issued (July 10, 2000, 65 FR 42422). When NMFS issued the current permit, impacts of the proposed fisheries to listed Snake River steelhead were assessed in a biological opinion, and NMFS determined that the fisheries would not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened Snake River steelhead. The proposed modification would authorize levels of take consistent with that analysis and opinion.

In its Plan, IDFG is proposing to limit state recreational fisheries such that the incidental impacts on ESA-listed salmonids will be minimized. Three alternatives for the IDFG fisheries are provided in the Plan: (1) The no action alternative; (2) the proposed conservation plan alternative (based on continuing fisheries at levels similar to those permitted since 1995); and (3) historic fishing levels.

Environmental Assessment/finding of No Significant Impact

The EA package includes a draft EA and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact which concludes that issuing the modification to the incidental take permit is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. Three Federal action alternatives have been analyzed in the draft EA: (1) The no action alternative; (2) issue a permit

without conditions; and (3) issue a permit with conditions.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a modified permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed anadromous salmonids under the jurisdiction of NMFS. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all public comments received during the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 10, 2001.

Karen Salvini,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041001B]

Re-opening of Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP's) proposed for Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, WA, and the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, WA

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

ACTION: Re-opening of comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS is re-opening the comment period for the DEIS for the HCP's proposed for Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, WA, and the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, WA. NMFS has received several requests to extend the comment period. NMFS has determined that these requests are reasonable and has re-opened the comment period to facilitate the receipt of the public's views on the DEIS. The original announcement of the notice of availability of the DEIS for the HCP's was published in the **Federal Register** on December 29, 2000.

DATES: Written comments on the DEIS must be received on or before May 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: For copies of the DEIS, or to provide written comments, contact: Robert Dach, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Hydro Program, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 420, Portland, OR 97232-2737. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503/231-2318. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

The DEIS and the proposed HCPs are available for review via the Internet at www.nwr.noaa.gov/1hydro/hydroweb/ferc.htm (under the "Related Documents" heading).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Dach at phone number: 503/736-4734, or e-mail: Robert.Dach@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The notice of availability of the DEIS for comment was published on December 29, 2000 (65 FR 82976-82977). Since that time, NMFS had received numerous requests to extend the comment period. Requests have been received from the Department of Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, several non-governmental organizations, and Native American Tribes. NMFS determined that these requests were reasonable, is re-opening the comment period, and is soliciting specific information, comments, data, and/or recommendations on any aspect of the DEIS.

Dated: April 10, 2001.

Karen Salvini,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040501A]

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of meetings of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) from April 24-26, 2001.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. April 24, 2001, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.