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Permit 1496

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is requesting a 5-year research permit to annually capture, handle, and release adult and juvenile LCR steelhead. The research would take place in Trout Creek, a tributary to the Wind River near Carson, Washington. The purpose of the research is to determine what effects Hemlock Dam has on steelhead migration and survival. The USFS intends to examine steelhead migration patterns, growth, survival, and spatial distribution within Hemlock Reservoir. The research would benefit the fish by providing information on the influence the dam has on parr and fry migration, fish residence time, and fish growth and survival in the reservoir. The results of the study would be included in the Hemlock Dam Environmental Impact Statement and would help managers make recommendations to remedy factors causing fish mortality.

The USFS proposes to observe fish during snorkel surveys and capture fish using temporary weirs, beach seines, and backpack electrofishing equipment. Once captured, the fish would be anesthetized, weighed, and measured. Scale and stomach contents samples would then be taken, and the fish would be tagged with Passive Integrated Transponders, allowed to recover, and released. The USFS does not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small percentage may die as an unintended result of the research activities.

Permit 1500

The University of Idaho (UI) is seeking a 5-year research permit to annually capture, handle, and release juvenile SR sockeye salmon, fall chinook salmon, spr/sum chinook salmon, and steelhead. The research would take place in four reservoirs in the lower Snake River. The purpose of the research is to monitor predator and salmonid use of nearshore habitats in the reservoirs and thereby determine the short-term potential for increasing salmonid productivity through various habitat-restoration activities. The researchers would monitor salmonid habitat use in a number of nearshore areas both before and after restoration activities have taken place. The UI would also monitor habitat use in areas that receive no treatment. The research would benefit listed fish by helping guide habitat restoration efforts in reservoirs across the region. The results

of the study would be incorporated into various development and dredge disposal plans throughout the lower Snake River.

The UI proposes to capture the fish using beach seines, minnow traps, and boat electrofishing equipment. The captured fish would be anesthetized, weighed and measured, and released. The UI does not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small percentage may die as an intended result of the activities.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the applications, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decisions will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: July 21, 2004.

Susan Pultz,

*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. 072004B]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; Red Snapper; Scoping Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of scoping hearings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold 10 hearings on a scoping document to solicit public input on the alternative that should be used for an amendment that will create an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program for the commercial red snapper fishery.

DATES: The meetings will be held in August 2004. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates, times, and locations.

Public comments received by mail or e-mail that are received in the Council office by 5 p.m., September 3, 2004, will be presented to the Council.

ADDRESSES: See Supplementary Information section for hearing addresses.

Written comments on, and requests for, the scoping document should be addressed to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301, North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619; telephone: (813) 228-2815. Comments may be sent by e-mail to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. A copy of the scoping document can also be obtained from the Council's web page: <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wayne Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold 10 hearings on a scoping document to solicit public input on the alternative that should be used for an amendment that will create an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program for the commercial red snapper fishery. The scoping document presented at the hearings will consist of the following two parts: the first part includes a section on vessel monitoring systems (VMS) with alternatives for requiring (or not requiring) participants in the red snapper IFQ program to have VMS to enhance the enforceability of the IFQ program, the second and principal part of the scoping document is an IFQ profile which contains numerous alternatives for structuring the IFQ program. The Council is soliciting public comment on alternatives that it should consider in developing the IFQ program. Persons with commercial reef fish licenses will be mailed a copy of the scoping document.

Scoping Hearings

The scoping hearings will be held at the following locations and dates beginning at 7 p.m. and concluding no later than 10 p.m.:

1. Wednesday, August 11, 2004, Harrah's Lake Charles Casino Hotel, 505 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601; telephone: 337-437-1546;

2. Thursday, August 12, 2004, Holiday Inn Houma, 210 South Hollywood Road, Houma, LA 70360; telephone: 877-800-9383;

3. Friday, August 13, 2004, New Orleans Airport Hilton, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA 70062; telephone: 504-469-5000;

4. Monday, August 16, 2004, Holiday Inn Emerald Beach, 1102 South Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi, TX 78401; telephone: 361-883-5731;

5. Tuesday, August 17, 2004, Palacios Recreation Center, 2401 Perryman,

Palacios, TX 77465; telephone: 361-972-2387;

6. Wednesday, August 18, 2004, San Luis Resort, 5222 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston Island, TX 77551; telephone: 409-740-8616;

7. Monday, August 23, 2004, MS Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Drive, Biloxi, MS 39530; telephone: 228-374-5000;

8. Tuesday, August 24, 2004, Perdido Beach Resort, 27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach, AL 36561; telephone: 251-981-9811;

9. Monday, August 30, 2004, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL 32408; telephone: 850-234-6541; and

10. The time, date, and location of this meeting will be published in the **Federal Register**.

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by July 28, 2004.

Dated: July 20, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071404A]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Notice of Sea Turtle Release/Protocol Workshops

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

ACTION: Notice of public workshops.

SUMMARY: NMFS is announcing workshops that will demonstrate the proper sea turtle handling and release techniques for vessel operators using pelagic longline gear in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The workshops will also show the required release equipment and summarize the current regulations involving the mandatory use of handling and release techniques along with the types of release equipment for sea turtles.

DATES: The workshops will be held from July through September 2004. For specific dates and times see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The workshops will be held in Dulac and Larose, LA; Panama City, Pompano Beach and Ft. Pierce, FL; Charleston, SC; Wanchese, NC; Barnegat Light, NJ; East Setauket, NY; Narragansett, RI; and New Bedford, MA. For specific locations and times see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Written comments or questions regarding workshops should be addressed to Charlie Bergmann, 3209 Frederic St. Pascagoula, MS 39567 or by phone at (228)-762-4591 or (228)-623-0748.

Any additional information for Highly Migratory Species can be found online at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms> or by calling Highly Migratory Species Management Division at (301)-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Atlantic tuna, swordfish, shark, and billfish fisheries are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and regulated pursuant to the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA), which authorizes rulemaking to implement recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Implementing regulations for both the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks and the Billfish Fishery Management Plan are at 50 CFR part 635.

On July 6, 2004, NMFS published a final rule (69 FR 40734) stating that all vessel operators in the pelagic longline fishery in the Atlantic Ocean, including Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea must follow NMFS Careful Release Protocols For Sea Turtle Release With Minimal Injury. For more information about these protocols, visit the HMS web site or call Charlie Bergman (see **ADDRESSES**).

Also on June 1, 2004, NMFS released a Biological Opinion regarding the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. This Biological Opinion requires NMFS to hold voluntary workshops demonstrating the new sea turtle handling and releasing techniques and equipment. Proper use will increase the post-release survival of the sea turtles. All pelagic longline fisherman (e.g., permit holders, vessel operators, and crew) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, and any interested parties are strongly encouraged to attend.

The dates, times, and locations of these workshops are scheduled as follows:

1. July 27, 2004, Steven Le Seafood, 8893 Shrimpers Row, Dulac, LA 70353 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2. July 28, 2004, LaRose civic Center, 307 East 5th St., Larose, LA 70373 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

3. July 29, 2004, NMFS Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Dr., Panama City, FL 32408 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

4. August 16, 2004, Pompano Beach Civic Center, 1801 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach, FL 33060 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

5. August 17, 2004, Ft. Pierce Hurricane House, 8400 Picos Rd., Ft. Pierce, FL 34945 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

6. August 18, 2004, USCG Training Center, 1050 Register St., Charleston, SC 29405 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

7. August 19, 2004, Etheridge Seafood, 4561 Mill Landing Rd., Wanchese, NC 27981 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

8. September 13, 2004, Barnegat Light Fire Hall, 10th St & Central, Barnegat Light, NJ 24943 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

9. September 14, 2004, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 205 Bellmead Rd., East Setauket, NY 11733 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

10. September 16, 2004, Narragansett NOAA Lab, 28 Tarewell Dr., Narragansett, RI 22882 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

11. September 17, 2004, MacCleans Seafood, 10 North Front St., New Bedford, MA 02740 from 10 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Request for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Charlie Bergmann at (228) 762-4591 or (228) 623-0748 at least 5 days before the meeting.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 20, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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