

The agenda will include a review of comments received during scoping period for Skate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The committee and advisory panel will review Skate PDT report and provide additional guidance to the PDT. They will also develop management alternatives for Draft Skate FMP and public hearing document.

Wednesday, March 7, 2001, 9:30 a.m.—Habitat Oversight Committee.

Location: Sheraton Ferncroft, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978)777-2500.

The agenda will include a discussion of habitat measures, alternatives and analyses to be included in the Groundfish FMP Amendment 13 Draft Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). The committee will consider preliminary information on required essential fish habitat (EFH) components of proposed Skate and Red Crab FMPs. They will also review EFH Consultation activities, including a proposed General Concurrence for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District's Nationwide Permit Program.

The Committee will review applications to the Advisory Panel in a CLOSED SESSION.

Monday, March 12, 2001, 9:30 a.m.—Scallop Oversight Committee Meeting.

Location: Airport Holiday Inn, 225 McClellan Highway, East Boston, MA 02128; telephone: (617)569-5250.

The Scallop Oversight Committee will approve problem statements, goals and objectives, and proposed management alternatives outline for Amendment 10.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: February 14, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-4296 Filed 2-20-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021301A]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of three applications for scientific research permits (1290, 1291, 1292).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement: NMFS has received applications for ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) scientific research permits from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS at Seattle, WA (NWFS); the U.S. Geological Survey at Cook, WA (USGS); and the U.S. Forest Service at La Grande, OR (USFS).

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time on March 23, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on any of the new applications or modification requests should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the application or modification request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

For permits 1290, 1291, 1292: Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737 (ph: 503-230-5400, fax: 503-230-5435).

Documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permits 1290, 1291, 1292: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (ph: 503-230-5424, fax: 503-230-5435, e-mail: Robert.Koch@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16

U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see ADDRESSES). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESU's) are covered in this notice:

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*): endangered Snake River (SnR).

Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*): endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, upper Columbia River (UCR) spring; threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, SnR spring/summer; threatened SnR fall; threatened lower Columbia River (LCR); threatened upper Willamette River (UWR).

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): threatened Columbia River.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, UCR; threatened SnR; threatened middle Columbia River (MCR); threatened LCR; threatened UWR.

New Applications Received

The Fish Ecology Division of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS requests a 5-year permit (1290) for annual takes of 11 of the 12 ESA-listed anadromous fish species identified in this notice (all ESU's except endangered SnR sockeye salmon) associated with research to be conducted in the Columbia River estuary. The purpose of the research is to determine the prevalence and intensity of pathogens in juvenile salmonids. The research will benefit ESA-listed salmonids by contributing information on the extent to which

diseases affect the growth and survival of juvenile salmonids in the estuarine and early ocean environments. This proposed research project is intended to complement the pathogen research that is being conducted by the Environmental Conservation Division, NWFSC, NMFS under scientific research permit 1140 (see 63 FR 18891, April 16, 1998). ESA-listed juvenile fish are proposed to be captured, handled, and released or taken lethally. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities are also requested. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities are proposed to be retained for research purposes or returned to the water.

The Columbia River Research Laboratory, USGS requests a 5-year permit (1291) for annual takes of SnR sockeye salmon, SnR spring/summer chinook salmon, SnR fall chinook salmon, UCR spring chinook salmon, SnR steelhead, UCR steelhead, and MCR steelhead associated with scientific research at John Day, The Dalles, and Bonneville Dams on the lower Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. The purpose of the research is to monitor juvenile fish movement, distribution, behavior, and survival from John Day Dam downstream past Bonneville Dam using radiotelemetry technology. The research will benefit ESA-listed fish species by providing information on spill effectiveness, forebay residence times, and guidance efficiency under various flow regimes that will allow Federal resource managers to make adjustments to bypass/collection structures to optimize downriver migrant survival at the hydropower projects. The proposed research is intended to complement the research that is being conducted by USGS under scientific research permit 1130 (see 63 FR 9505, February 25, 1998). ESA-listed juvenile fish are proposed to be obtained from Smolt Monitoring Program (SMP) personnel at Bonneville and/or John Day Dams, handled, and released or implanted with radio transmitters, transported, held for as long as 24 hours, released, and tracked electronically. SMP personnel are authorized to collect ESA-listed juvenile fish under a separate take authorization. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested.

The Pacific Northwest Research Station of USFS requests a 2-year permit (1292) for annual takes of UCR spring chinook salmon, UCR steelhead, and MCR steelhead associated with research to be conducted in the Yakima River subbasin, the Wenatchee River subbasin, the Entiat River subbasin, and the Methow River subbasin in

Washington. The purpose of the research is to determine the extent and distribution of hybridization between westslope cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and anadromous steelhead for selected populations in the MCR and UCR Basins. The research will benefit ESA-listed species by providing information on westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout/steelhead interactions and could provide insight into possible genetic introgression of introduced rainbow trout stocks in the areas of native rainbow trout/steelhead distribution. USFS also proposes to analyze phenotypic characteristics that may be used by biologists in the future to more definitively distinguish cutthroat trout, rainbow trout/steelhead, and hybrid forms in the field. ESA-listed juvenile fish are proposed to be captured by the use of angling with flies that have barbless hooks. After being captured, the juvenile fish are proposed to be released immediately (in the case of non-target species) or examined for biological information, sampled non-lethally for caudal fin tissue, and released. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested.

Dated: February 13, 2001.

Phil Williams,

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

[FR Doc. 01-4169 Filed 2-20-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.020601A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 782-1446-03

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98115 has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 782-1446.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (206/526-6150); and Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ruth Johnson or Tammy Adams, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 27, 2000 notice was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 81844) that an amendment of Permit No. 782-1446, issued May 8, 1998 (63 FR 27265), had been requested by the above-named organization. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 782-1446 authorizes the permit holder to annually conduct aerial, ground and vessel surveys and capture and tagging studies for stock assessment of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*).

The amendment now authorizes the capture, sampling and local or gas anesthesia for California sea lions of both sexes and ages 1 month through 5 years at hauling and breeding sites and incidental harassment of northern elephant.

Dated: February 13, 2001.

Eugene Nitta,

Acting Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Taiwan

February 15, 2001.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 21, 2001.