

than 80,000 lobsters, Necker Island no more than 70,000 lobsters, Gardner Pinnacles no more than 20,000 lobsters, and the remainder from all other banks/areas combined 116,000 lobsters. When the allocation for any bank/area is projected to be taken, the Regional Administrator will close that area or bank to prevent overfishing. When a total of 286,000 lobsters is projected to be taken, the Regional Administrator will close the fishery for the season. The fishery opens July 1, 1998.

The Council will meet on May 8, 1998 to take final action on this allocation of the harvest guidelines. At its April 1998 meeting, the Council also recommended that NMFS and industry work together to get data on the distribution and abundance of lobsters throughout the archipelago, and that observers should be placed on all vessels that volunteer for observer coverage during the 1998 season to provide the needed data. Documents describing the issue, alternative solutions, the preferred Council action and anticipated impacts, are being prepared and distributed for review/comment to lobster permit holders and interested parties prior to the meeting. Copies may be obtained from the Council (see ADDRESSES); and

2. American Samoa closed area: Fishermen in American Samoa who are members of the Council's advisory panels have expressed concern about the long-term sustainability of the local small-boat pelagics fishery. In particular, there is concern that large longline vessels will seek new fishing opportunities in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around American Samoa as fisheries in other areas of the U.S. EEZ become increasingly restricted. Such a rapid influx of large vessels occurred in Hawaii during the late 1980s and led to extensive gear conflicts. In addition, there is concern that the large vessels supplying fish to American Samoa's tuna canneries already occasionally fish in the EEZ. A widely held perception among small-scale trollers and longliners is that these larger vessels intercept fish migrating to local waters and reduce the supply of tuna and other pelagic species available for capture by artisanal and recreational fishermen.

The Council was asked at the 92nd meeting in April 1997 to assist in forming a fishermen's working group to consider various management options to ensure the long-term sustainability of the small-boat fishery. Various meetings of the working group and other fishermen were convened by the Council and the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources between June and October

1997. The consensus among fishermen was that the most effective management action would be to close an area around the islands of American Samoa to pelagic fishing vessels longer than 50 ft.

In anticipation of possibly creating such a closed area, the Council established a control date of November 13, 1997, after which vessels larger than 50 ft entering the fishery will not be assured of being allowed to use longline gear to fish for pelagic management unit species within 100 nautical miles of the islands of American Samoa. At its April 1998 meeting, the Council also considered prohibiting other US fishing vessels (e.g. purse seiners, trollers and pole-and-line bait boats) greater than 50 feet in length from fishing for pelagic management unit species within 100 nautical miles of the islands of American Samoa.

The Council will seek to identify all interested persons and organizations and solicit their involvement in discussion of this issue and the proposed actions. In addition, a document presenting the issue will be distributed to all pelagic advisory groups of the Council who have not yet received it, with request for comments. The document will also be distributed to the Council's mailing list associated with the Pelagics Fishery Management Plan, and to all parties who may be affected by the proposed action to solicit their input and to indicate that the Council will take action on this issue at the May 8th meeting. Copies may be obtained from the Council (see ADDRESSES).

The meeting is open to the public and public comments are encouraged.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda, may come before these groups for discussion, according to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-10869 Filed 4-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041798A]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research permits (1147, 1149) and a request for modification 2 to permit 1011; issuance of scientific research permits (1065, 1114, 1115, 1116)

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission at Portland, OR (CRITFC) has applied in due form for permits (1147, 1149) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at La Grande, OR (ODFW) has applied in due form for a modification to a permit (1101) that would authorize takes of anadromous fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act for the purpose of scientific research/enhancement.

Notice is also given that NMFS has issued scientific research permits that authorize takes of ESA-listed species for the purpose of scientific research and/or enhancement, subject to certain conditions set forth therein, to: Humboldt Fish Action Council (HFAC) (1065); Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Olympia, WA (WDFW) (1114); Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (PUDCC) (1115); and Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (PUDDC) (1116).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the applications must be received on or before May 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

For permits 1101, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1147, and 1149: Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

For permit 1065: Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 777 Sonoma Avenue Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 (707-575-6050).

All 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 1101, 1147, and 1149: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (503-230-5424).

For permits 1114, 1115, and 1116: Tom Lichatowich, Portland, OR (503-230-5438).

For permit 1065: Thomas Hablett, Santa Rosa, CA (707-575-6066).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Permits are requested under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

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

Issuance of these permits, modifications, and amendments, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permits, modifications, and amendments: (1) Were 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. These permits, modifications, and amendments were also issued in accordance with and are subject to parts 217-222 of Title 50 CFR, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

Species Covered in this Notice

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Applications Received

CRITFC (1147) requests a 5-year permit that would authorize an annual direct take of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with a supplementation program at Johnson Creek of the South Fork Salmon River in ID. The objectives of CRITFC's program are to: (1) supply broodstock for supplementation, (2) restore and maintain natural spawning, (3) increase nutrient enrichment into Johnson Creek, and (4) reestablish sport and tribal fisheries for chinook salmon. CRITFC

proposes to capture ESA-listed adult salmon, tag and/or mark them, inoculate them for diseases, retain a percentage for hatchery broodstock, and release the rest above the weir to spawn naturally. Progeny of the broodstock would be reared at McCall Fish Hatchery, tagged with coded-wires and passive integrated transponders, and released when ready to outmigrate to the ocean. An annual incidental take of ESA-listed species associated with juvenile fish releases is also requested.

CRITFC (1149) also requests a 3-year permit that would authorize an annual direct take of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a supplementation program at the Lostine River in OR. The supplementation program would be a component of a coordinated enhancement effort already begun by ODFW under the authority of permit 1011 (see below). The objectives of CRITFC's supplementation program are to: (1) Collect broodstock for production for acclimated releases back into the Lostine River; (2) provide monitoring and evaluation of returning adults from captive brood, conventional, and natural production; and (3) provide acclimation release facilities for captive brood smolts produced under the authority of permit 1011. CRITFC proposes to capture fish at the Lostine River weir, tag and/or mark them, inoculate them for diseases, retain a percentage for hatchery broodstock, and release the remaining fish above the weir to spawn naturally. Progeny of the broodstock would be reared at Lookingglass Hatchery, tagged with coded wires and passive integrated transponders, and released when ready to outmigrate to the ocean. An annual incidental take of ESA-listed species associated with juvenile fish releases is requested.

Permit 1011 authorizes ODFW annual direct takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a captive broodstock program for Catherine Creek, upper Grande Ronde River, and Lostine River populations. Modification 1 to permit 1011, issued on June 20, 1997, authorized ODFW to collect naturally-produced returning adults from the three watersheds in 1997 only to begin a supplementation program. For modification 2 to permit 1011, ODFW requests to collect returning adults from Catherine Creek and the upper Grande Ronde River to continue the supplementation program. CRITFC will be primarily responsible for operating

adult trapping and smolt acclimation facilities at the Lostine River as proposed in their application for a permit (1149, see above). The ESA-listed adult salmon not retained for broodstock, including all adult salmon from captive brood production, will be tagged and/or marked, sampled for tissues and scales, and released above the weirs to spawn naturally. ODFW proposes to transport the collected adults to Lookingglass Hatchery where they will be spawned, the resulting eggs incubated, and the juveniles reared. ODFW believes that the collection of ESA-listed adults for hatchery supplementation will increase the persistence of the populations because of the survival advantage provided by the hatchery. Releases of juvenile fish from the supplementation program are requested. An annual incidental take of ESA-listed species associated with juvenile fish releases is requested. Modification 2 is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit which expires on December 31, 2000.

Permits Issued

Notice was published on January 15, 1998 (63 FR 2364) that an application had been filed by WDFW for a scientific research permit. Permit 1114 was issued to WDFW on April 9, 1998. The permit authorizes takes of juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead associated with a smolt monitoring program at Rock Island Dam on the Columbia River. The purpose of the program is to collect information on juvenile fish migration timing, survival, travel timing, and general fish health. The data will be used to make in-season adjustments to water releases from upstream reservoirs that optimize downstream migration conditions. Permit 1114 expires on December 31, 2002.

Notice was published on January 15, 1998 (63 FR 2364) that an application had been filed by PUDCC for a scientific research permit. Permit 1115 was issued on April 10, 1998 and authorizes the takes of juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead associated with research. The purpose of the research is to: (1) Evaluate the juvenile fish bypass system installed at Rocky Reach Dam, and (2) monitor juvenile fish gas bubble trauma at Rocky Reach and Rock Island Dams on the Columbia River. Permit 1115 expires on December 31, 2002.

Notice was published on January 15, 1998 (63 FR 2364) that an application had been filed by PUDDC for a scientific research permit. Permit 1116 was issued

to PUDDC on April 10, 1998 and authorizes takes of juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead associated with two research studies. Study 1 is designed to determine the survival and migration differences of juvenile fish as they pass downstream through Lake Pateros and Wells Dam. The information will be used to determine the appropriateness of utilizing selected surrogate stocks in future survival studies in the mid-Columbia River. Study 2 is designed to understand the status of juvenile salmonid migration at Wells Dam. ESA-listed juvenile fish will be lethally taken by fyke nets. Permit 1116 expires on December 31, 2002.

Notice was published on December 17, 1997 (62 FR 66053) that an application had been filed by HFAC for a scientific research permit. Permit 1065 was issued to HFAC on April 15, 1998. Permit 1065 authorizes takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, southern Oregon/northern California coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in California, associated with fish population studies in the Freshwater Creek drainage within the evolutionarily significant unit. The studies consist of coho salmon abundance and spawner surveys for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken. ESA-listed fish will be captured, handled, and released. ESA-listed salmon indirect mortalities associated with the research are also authorized. Permit 1065 expires on June 30, 2003.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,
Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-10868 Filed 4-22-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041698F]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 1031 (P623)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Ms. D. Ann Pabst, Biological Sciences and Center for Marine Science Research, The University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 601 South College Road,

Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-3297, has requested an amendment to Permit No. 1031.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before May 26, 1998.

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

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

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508/281-9250);

Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, National Marine

Fisheries Service, 9721 Executive Center Drive, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-5301).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment is requested 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).

The Permit Holder is currently authorized to conduct photo-identification studies, acoustic recording, and aerial and vessel surveys, on up to 1,200 humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) annually over a five year period. In addition, the following non-target species may be harassed during the course of the research: North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*), fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), beaked whales (*Mesoplodon sp.*), and pelagic dolphins (*Stenella sp.*). The primary goal of the research is to identify potential anthropogenic causes of mortality of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the mid-Atlantic Ocean.

The Holder is now requesting that the Permit be amended to: (1) expand the geographic coverage of the research to include offshore waters to the continental shelf from Cape Fear, North

Carolina north to the mouth of Delaware Bay; (2) increase the number of takes of animals currently authorized to be harassed under the permit; and to add sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) and common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) to the species authorized to be harassed. The purpose of the amendment is to conduct increased numbers of offshore aerial and vessel surveys to more thoroughly identify the temporal and spatial distribution of humpback whales and other cetacean species.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,
Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-10867 Filed 4-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

"FEDERAL REGISTER" CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: 63 FR 17994 April 13, 1998.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED TIME AND DATE OF MEETING: 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 23, 1998.

CHANGES IN MEETING: The Commission briefing on the FY 1998 Mid-Year Review is canceled. The meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 30, 1998.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207 (301) 504-0800.