

of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. EFH provisions include the description and identification of essential fish habitat and threats to that habitat and coordination and consultation on actions that may adversely affect EFH. From 11 a.m., Monday, March 2 through noon, Wednesday, March 4, the EFH core team will review and discuss the available information and be open to public comments. From 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 4 through the end of the meeting (Thursday or Friday) only NMFS employees will continue to meet to review the best available scientific information and draft NMFS EFH recommendation(s). This meeting is open to the public only from 11 a.m., Monday, March 2 to noon Wednesday, March 4, 1998.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cindy Hartmann, (907) 586-7235, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February, 12, 1998.

James P. Burgess,

*Director, Office of Habitat Conservation
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-4682 Filed 2-19-98; 4:54 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021398B]

Magnuson Act Provisions; Essential Fish Habitat; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS is convening a meeting of the Pacific coast groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) technical team to review EFH descriptions for groundfish and adverse affects on groundfish EFH. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 2, 1998, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council offices, 2130 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 224, Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvonne deReynier, 206-526-6120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS is in the process of developing recommendations on EFH for Pacific coast groundfish in accordance with recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. EFH recommendations to be presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council for an amendment to the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) include a description of EFH for groundfish species managed by the FMP; a description of adverse effects to EFH including fishing and non-fishing threats; and a description of measures to ensure the conservation and enhancement of EFH.

NMFS has formed a technical team consisting of individuals from the fishing industry, environmental, state, tribal, and Federal interests and agencies to provide technical input and advice on the development of the NMFS recommendations. The first meeting of the technical team was held on January 30, 1998. The technical team will meet a second time on March 2 to review draft EFH documents as they are prepared. The meetings will be open to the public and the public will have an opportunity to comment. EFH documents will be available at the meeting.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Yvonne deReynier (206-526-6120) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 17, 1998.

James P. Burgess,

*Director, Office of Habitat Conservation,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-4533 Filed 2-18-98; 4:46 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021398D]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for modification 4 to enhancement permit 895 and notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Walla Walla, WA (Corps) has applied in due form for a modification to Permit 895 that would provide authorization for takes of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed steelhead for the purpose of enhancement. Notice is also hereby given that NMFS will conduct public hearings on the Corps' request for a modification to Permit 895 and the request from the Fish Passage Center at Portland, OR (FPC) for modification 5 to scientific research permit 822, that authorizes takes of ESA-listed species associated with the Smolt Monitoring Program. Information received at the hearings will assist NMFS in the preparation of an ESA supplemental Section 7 biological opinion.

DATES: Public hearings are scheduled for March 10, 1998; March 11, 1998; March 12, 1998; and March 17, 1998 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., or until all comments have been heard. The comment period for the permit modification application ends on March 27, 1998. Time is provided for concerned parties to respond to the testimony presented at the public hearings.

ADDRESSES: Public hearings will be held at the following locations:

March 10 - Natural Resource Center,

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID;

March 11 - Lewiston Community Center, 1424 Main Street, Lewiston, ID;

March 12 - Columbia Basin Community College, 2600 N. 20th Avenue, Pasco, WA, and;

March 17 - Federal Complex Auditorium, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR.

The permit modification application and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

Written comments should be submitted to the Chief, Protected Resources Division in Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Koch, Protected Resources Division (503-230-5424).

Special Accommodations

The hearings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Lisa Hensler at (503) 230-5414 at least five days prior to the date of the respective hearing.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public hearings are being presented by NMFS as a forum for concerned parties to provide comments on the Corps' request for modification 4 to permit 895 and FPC's request for modification 5 to scientific research permit 822. A future notice is expected to be issued on the receipt of an application for modification 5 to FPC's permit 822. Information received at the hearings will assist NMFS in the preparation of the supplemental biological opinion.

The Corps requests a modification to Permit 895 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).

Permit 895 authorizes the Corps annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*); juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); and juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with the Corps' juvenile fish transportation program at four hydroelectric projects on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in the Pacific Northwest (Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and McNary Dams). Permit 895 also authorizes the Corps annual incidental takes of ESA-listed adult fish associated with fallbacks through the juvenile fish bypass systems at the four dams. The purpose of the juvenile fish transportation program is to enhance the survival of migrating anadromous salmonids that would otherwise be subjected to adverse environmental conditions at the dams and reservoirs on the rivers.

For modification 4 to the permit, the Corps requests: (1) Annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and juvenile, threatened, Snake River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) associated with the transportation program; and (2) annual incidental takes of ESA-listed adult steelhead associated with fallbacks through juvenile fish bypass systems. ESA-listed steelhead indirect and incidental mortalities associated with the transportation program are requested. Also for modification 4, the Corps requests an extension of the expiration date of permit 895 to December 31, 1999. Permit 895 is currently due to expire on December 31, 1998. The Corps is conducting a

feasibility study to evaluate several alternatives to juvenile fish transport including: Removing parts of dams to restore natural river conditions, new bypass alternatives including surface collector systems, the role of the juvenile fish transportation program in long-term recovery efforts, and improving existing bypass systems. The study is scheduled to be completed by late 1999. An extension of permit 895 through December 31, 1999 will allow the duration of the permit to coincide with the completion of the feasibility study.

To date, protective regulations for threatened Snake River steelhead under section 4(d) of the ESA have not been promulgated by NMFS. This notice of receipt of an application requesting a take of this species is issued as a precaution in the event that NMFS issues protective regulations that prohibit takes of Snake River steelhead. The initiation of a public comment period on the application, including its proposed take of Snake River steelhead, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations.

NMFS is preparing a supplemental biological opinion to the March 2, 1995 opinion that will analyze the impacts to ESA-listed steelhead due to the continuation of these activities. On March 2, 1995, NMFS issued a biological opinion that addresses impacts to ESA-listed Snake River salmon due to the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System. That opinion also addresses NMFS' issuance of ESA section 10 permits that authorize takes of ESA-listed species associated with the Corps' juvenile fish transportation program and FPC's Smolt Monitoring Program. Relevant scientific and commercial information received at the hearings will also assist NMFS in the preparation of this supplemental biological opinion on the project.

Anyone wishing to make a presentation at any of the public hearings should register upon arrival and be prepared to provide a written copy of their testimony at the time of presentation. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak at each respective hearing, a time limit may be imposed. All statements and opinions summarized in this notice are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: February 18, 1998.

Nancy I. Chu,

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

[FR Doc. 98–4579 Filed 2–18–98; 4:46 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of an Import Limit for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Honduras

February 18, 1998.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs increasing a limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 24, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482–4212. For information on the quota status of this limit, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927–5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482–3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limit for Categories 352/652 is being increased for carryover.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 62 FR 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Also see 62 FR 68261, published on December 31, 1997.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

February 18, 1998.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on December 23, 1997, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Honduras and exported during the period which began on January 1, 1998 and extends through March 26, 1998.

Effective on February 24, 1998, you are directed to increase the limit for Categories