

Dated: March 16, 1999.
 Authority: 42 U.S.C. 1786.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,
 Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-7263 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030599B]

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals; Taking of Ringed Seals Incidental to On-Ice Seismic Activities

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a letter of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and with implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that a letter of authorization to take ringed seals incidental to on-ice seismic operations in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska was issued on March 21, 1999, to BP Exploration (Alaska), Anchorage, AK. **DATES:** This letter of authorization is effective from March 21, 1999, through May 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The applications and letters are available for review in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, 701 C Street, Anchorage, AK 99513.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, NMFS, (301) 713-2055 or Brad Smith, Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, (907) 271-5006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made by NMFS and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "taking" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or

stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of ringed and bearded seals incidental to on-ice seismic surveys were published on February 2, 1998 (63 FR 5277), and remain in effect until December 31, 2002.

Summary of Request

NMFS received a request for a letter of authorization on February 8, 1999, from BP Exploration (Alaska). This letter requested a take by harassment of a small number of ringed seals incidental to the described activity.

Issuance of these letters of authorization are based on findings that the total takings by this activity will have a negligible impact on the ringed and bearded seal stocks of the Western Beaufort Sea and that the applicants have met the requirements contained in the implementing regulations.

Dated: March 21, 1999.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-7351 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031799D]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPs) Committee and ad hoc Reauthorization Committee will meet in Charleston, SC.

DATES: The SOPPs Committee meeting will be held on April 19, 1999 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on April 20, 1999

from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon; the ad hoc Reauthorization Committee meeting will be held on April 20, 1999 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on April 21, 1999 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2001 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: 843-571-1000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SOPPs Committee will revise the Council's SOPPs manual for submission to the Secretary of Commerce for review. The ad hoc Reauthorization Committee will develop Council recommendations for changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by April 12, 1999.

Dated: March 19, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-7350 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031999D]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of a request for modification 1 to permit 1094.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Olympia, WA (WDFW) has applied in due form for a permit modification that would authorize takes of anadromous fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act for research/enhancement purposes.

DATES: Written comments or a request for a public hearing on this request for a permit modification must be received on or before April 26, 1999.

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

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

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to the Chief, PRD in Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Koch (503-230-5424).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: WDFW requests a permit modification under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Permit 1094 authorizes WDFW an annual take of adult and juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, upper Columbia River (UCR) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) associated with a hatchery supplementation program in the mid- to upper Columbia River Basin. Incidental takes of ESA-listed species resulting from WDFW hatchery operations and hatchery produced fish releases are also authorized by the permit. WDFW believes the artificial propagation of ESA-listed steelhead will benefit the species by enhancing the population, which is not currently able to naturally replace itself. For modification 1, WDFW requests an increase in the number of ESA-listed juvenile steelhead releases from the program in 1999 for scientific research and enhancement purposes, which may result in an increase in incidental takes of ESA-listed species. Also for modification 1, WDFW requests incidental takes of juvenile, endangered, UCR spring chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) associated with the program. WDFW has provided a revised conservation plan designed to minimize and mitigate the potential increase in incidental takes of ESA-listed species. The revised conservation plan includes a strategy to manage adult returns. The increases in hatchery produced fish releases is requested to be valid in 1999 only. Takes of endangered, UCR spring chinook salmon are requested to be valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on May 31, 2003.

Those individuals requesting a hearing on this application 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 summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: March 19, 1999.

Kevin Collins,

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

[FR Doc. 99-7236 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031899C]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for permits (1201, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213); receipt of applications to modify permits (1038, 1048, 1050, 1060, 1131, 1141, 1166, 1181); and issuance of permits (1190, 1193).

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 permit applications from: Dr. Thane Wibbels, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (TW-UAB)(1201), the East Bay Municipal Utility District in Orinda, CA (EBMUD) (1204),

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in Portland, OR (ODEQ) (1205), United States Forest Service, Klamath National Forest in Fort Jones, CA (USFS) (1206), Camm Swift, of Arcadia, CA (SWIFT) (1207), Robert Leidy, of San Francisco, CA (LEIDY) (1208), Mr. Ken Alfieri, of Cypress Gardens, FL (KA-CG) (1209), Mr. John Ritgers, NMFS Northeast Region (NER) (1210), East Bay Regional Park District, in Oakland, CA (EBRPD) (1211), and the Fish Ecology Division of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS at Seattle, WA (NWFSC) (1212, 1213); NMFS has received applications for modifications to existing permits from: Trihey & Associates, Inc., of Walnut Creek, CA (TRIHEY) (1038), Sonoma County Water Agency, in Santa Rosa, CA (SCWA) (1048), Entrix, Inc., in Walnut Creek, CA (ENTRIX) (1050), Simpson Timber Company, in Korb, CA (STC) (1060), the Port of Portland at Portland, OR (POP) (1131), the Public Utility District Number 2 of Grant County in Ephrata,

WA (PUD GC)(1141), Alice A Rich and Associates (AAR) San Anselmo, CA (1166), and Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) in Capella, CA (1181); and NMFS has issued permits to Charles Karnella, of the Pacific Islands Area Office, NMFS Southwest Region (SWR-PIAO) (1190), and the Fish Passage Center, in Portland, OR (FPC) (1193).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received on or before April 26, 1999.

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

For permit 1209: Protected Resources Division, F/SER3, 9721 Executive Center Dr., St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813-570-5312).

For permits 1131, 1141, 1193, 1205, 1212, 1213: Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

For permits 1038, 1048, 1050, 1060, 1166, 1181 1204, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1211: Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528 (707-575-6066).

For permits 1190, 1201, 1210: Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-1401).

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 permit 1209: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (301-713-1401).

For permits 1190, 1201, 1210: Karen Salvini, Silver Spring, MD (301-713-1401).

For permits 1038, 1048, 1050, 1060, 1166, 1181 1204, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1211: Dan Logan, Protected Resources Division, Santa Rosa, CA (707-575-6053).

For permit 1193: Leslie Schaeffer, Portland, OR (503-230-5433).

For permits 1131, 1212, 1213: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (503-230-5424).

For permits 1141, 1205: Tom Lichatowich, Portland, OR (503-230-5438).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the ESA, is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) Are applied for in