

or its actions under the JPA, nor will the Federal Government reimburse or indemnify the GLOBE Private Sector Partner for its liability due to any losses resulting in any way from its actions arising out of its involvement in the GLOBE Program or its actions under the JPA.

III. Authority

NOAA is authorized to enter into Joint Project Agreements in accordance with the U.S. Department of Commerce Joint Project Authority, 15 U.S.C. 1525, which authorizes the Secretary to engage in joint efforts of mutual interest with non-profit, research, or public organizations upon an equitable distribution of the costs of the project. This Agreement is undertaken by NOAA in accordance with 15 U.S.C. 1540, which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce, through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, to enter into cooperative agreements and other financial agreements to aid and promote scientific and educational activities to foster public understanding of NOAA or its programs and to solicit private donations in support of such activities; 15 U.S.C. 2938, which authorizes NOAA to provide global change research findings to other Federal agencies; and, 49 U.S.C. App. 1463, which authorizes NOAA to engage in activities that support weather and other related environmental forecasting.

IV. Eligibility Criteria

Each respondent must itself be a non-profit private entity or be a person or private entity that proposes to form a suitable non-profit private entity to become the GLOBE Private Sector Partner. The entity proposed to be the GLOBE Private Sector Partner must be chartered and organized to operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and to support and promote increased scientific understanding of the environment and education of the people of the world about the environment through its active involvement in support of the GLOBE Program. Respondents will be required to raise funding and provide private support for non-governmental activities related to the GLOBE Program.

V. Proposal Submission Guidelines

The guidelines for proposals provided below are mandatory. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in proposals being returned without review.

(a) *Proposals*: (1) Respondents must submit one original and two copies of their proposals. (2) Proposals must be

limited to 40 single-space typewritten pages (numbered), including vitae, and all appendices. (3) Proposals must be sent or delivered to The GLOBE Director at the above address. (4) Facsimile transmissions or electronic mail submissions will not be accepted.

(b) *Required Elements*: All Proposals must include the following elements: (1) A Statement of Eligibility relative to the Eligibility Criteria in Section IV above. (2) A Statement of proposed activities and how the respondent will organize to carry out these activities, specifically addressing all evaluation factors set forth below and the GLOBE Private Sector Partner responsibilities as described in Section II above.

VI. Evaluation of JPA Proposals

Proposals will be evaluated based on three selection factors and additional credit factor, which are derived from the U.S. GLOBE Private Sector Partner responsibilities specified above, and in the context of the GLOBE Program goals. These goals are to enhance environmental awareness of individuals worldwide, to increase scientific understanding of the Earth, and to help all students reach higher standards in science and mathematics education. The selection factors will be given approximately equal value in the evaluation of proposals.

—The estimated amount of private monetary and in-kind resources that would be made available within the first year after the JPA is signed by the proposed Private Sector Partner to support the widespread implementation of the GLOBE Program, both domestically and internationally, including a willingness to commit to specific funding goals and schedules. It is expected that the GLOBE Private Sector Partner will provide support during the first year for at least 1,000 GLOBE schools, with a nominal value of such support of \$5,000 per school, and that support of well over 10,000 schools be planned over the long term.

—The ability of the proposed GLOBE Private Sector Partner to promote and coordinate the involvement of a broad range of other private sector participants, including foundations and for-profit business organizations, in collaborative support of the GLOBE Program. The GLOBE Private Sector Partner will be expected to raise private funding and support to achieve the goal of providing a very significant amount of total GLOBE funding from private sector resources over the long term.

—The ability of the Private Sector Partner to facilitate support of participation by thousands of schools in the GLOBE Program in a way so as to involve diverse groups of schools and to be inclusive in the opportunity to participate for the Nation's and the world's young people.

As an additional credit factor, proposals will be given additional credit in the evaluation process if they propose that the GLOBE Private Sector Partner establish or support the establishment of a highly visible public environmental learning center and appropriate exhibit space that features vivid, imaginative displays based on data acquired at GLOBE schools combined with real-time and historical satellite imagery and other environmental data and information. It is expected that such a center would utilize advanced virtual reality technology so as to provide an authentic and stimulating experience for large numbers of visitors.

VII. Selection Procedures

NOAA will convene an interagency review panel to evaluate the proposals received in accordance with the factors stated above, and to make recommendations to the GLOBE Director, who is an official of and is acting on behalf of NOAA. If there are more than five proposals received prior to the final selection being made by the GLOBE Director, the panel shall specifically designate no more than five of the proposals as those the panel has rated most highly. The review panel's recommendations, along with overall program goals and the evaluation factors stated above, will be considered by the GLOBE Director in the final selection of the GLOBE Private Sector Partner.

VIII. Other Information

Intergovernmental Review: This action has been determined not to require intergovernmental review.

Classification: This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

PRA: This action has been determined not to be subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Thomas N. Pyke, Jr.,

Director, *The GLOBE Program*.

[FR Doc. 95-1423 Filed 1-17-95; 12:46 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

[I.D. No. 010495A]

Marine Mammals; Pinniped Removal Authority

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of approval of an application for lethal removal and notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces approval of an application from the State of Washington to authorize the intentional lethal taking of individually identifiable California sea lions that have preyed on wild winter-run steelhead that migrate through the Ballard Locks in Seattle, WA. NMFS also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) that was prepared jointly by NMFS and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The EA examines the environmental consequences of alternatives for protecting the depressed Lake Washington winter-run of wild steelhead migrating through the Lake Washington Ship Canal and Ballard Locks from predation by California sea lions. The proposed action is authorized under section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

ADDRESSES: A copy of the EA may be obtained by writing to William Stelle, Jr., Director, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98115 or by telephoning one of the contacts listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Scordino, Northwest Region, NMFS, 206-526-6143 or Ken Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 301-713-2055.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 120 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) as amended in 1994, provides the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) the discretion to authorize the intentional lethal taking of individually identifiable pinnipeds that are having a significant negative impact on salmonids that are either: (1) Listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), (2) approaching a threatened or endangered status, or (3) migrate through the Ballard Locks in Seattle. The authorization applies only to pinnipeds that are not: (1) Listed under the ESA, (2) designated as depleted, or (3) designated a strategic stock. The process for determining whether to implement the authority in section 120 commences with a state submitting an application that provides a detailed description of the interaction problem, the means of identifying the individual pinnipeds, and expected benefits of the taking. Within 15 days of receiving an application, the Assistant Administrator

for Fisheries, NOAA (AA) must determine whether the applicant has produced sufficient evidence to warrant establishing a Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force (Task Force) to address the situation described in the application. If the application provides sufficient evidence, NMFS must publish a document in the Federal Register requesting public comment on the application, and establish a Task Force consisting of: (1) NMFS/NOAA staff, (2) scientists who are knowledgeable about the pinniped interaction that the application addresses, (3) representatives of affected conservation and fishing community organizations, (4) treaty Indian tribes, (5) the states, and (6) such other organizations as NMFS deems appropriate. The Task Force must, to the maximum extent practicable, consist of an equitable balance among representatives of resource user interests and nonuser interests. Meetings of the Task Force must be open to the public. Within 60 days after establishment, and after reviewing public comments in response to the Federal Register document, the Task Force is to recommend to NMFS approval or denial of the proposed intentional lethal taking along with recommendations on the proposed location, time, and method of such taking, criteria for evaluating the success of the action, and the duration of the intentional lethal taking authority. The Task Force must also suggest non-lethal alternatives, if available and practicable, including a recommended course of action. Within 30 days after receipt of the Task Force's recommendations, NMFS must either approve or deny the application. If such application is approved, NMFS must immediately take steps to implement the intentional lethal taking. The intentional lethal taking is to be performed by Federal or state agencies, or qualified individuals under contract to such agencies.

On July 6, 1994, the Secretary received an application, dated June 30, 1994, from the State of Washington, to authorize the intentional lethal taking of individually identifiable California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) that prey on wild winter-run steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) that migrate through the Ballard Locks in Seattle, WA. The State requested that the Secretary establish a Task Force and initiate the process provided by section 120 of the MMPA so that lethal removal, if approved, is authorized in time for protection of the 1994-95 winter-run of wild steelhead.

The AA determined that the State's application was sufficient to warrant

formation of a Task Force because all the necessary determinations and required information were either in the letter or in the documents referenced in the letter. Research by the State and NMFS has shown that California sea lions consume as much as 60 percent of the returning adult wild steelhead as they migrate through the Ballard Locks area, and that such exploitation rates can have a significant impact on the status or recovery of the Lake Washington winter-run wild steelhead. Notice of receipt and acceptance of the State's application was published in the Federal Register on August 2, 1994 (59 FR 39325) with a request for public comments. A Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force on the sea lion/steelhead conflict at the Ballard Locks was established on September 30, the date of their first public meeting. Notice of establishment of the Task Force and its meeting was published in the Federal Register on September 27, 1994 (59 FR 49234). Subsequent meetings were announced through NOAA Press Releases and reported in local media. The Task Force held 3 more meetings (open to the public) for a total of 8 days of meetings to consider pertinent data on California sea lions, winter-run steelhead, the nature and extent of the interaction at the Ballard Locks, the design and operation of the Locks/fishway facility, past measures and considerations for reducing or eliminating the sea lion/steelhead interaction, and public comments on the State's application received during the comment period.

The Task Force submitted its recommendation on the State's request for lethal removal to NMFS on November 23, 1994. By a 13 to 8 vote, the Task Force recommended approval of lethal removal of individually identifiable California sea lions, with conditions on when lethal removal may occur and the numbers and identity of animals that it may be applied to. A minority view from Task Force members opposed to lethal removal was submitted on December 5, 1994. Details of the Task Force recommendations are included in the EA.

Findings and Conditions

Based on the Task Force's recommendations and scientific information collected since 1985 on the California sea lion/steelhead interaction, NMFS has concluded that lethal removal of California sea lions at the Ballard Locks is a necessary, last resort for removing the sea lion preying on steelhead based on: (1) The declining and depressed status of the wild winter-run steelhead and the need to prevent

mortality of returning adult spawners; (2) the vulnerability of returning adult spawners to sea lion predation at the Ballard Locks and the lack of feasible and effective non-lethal measures to eliminate the problem this season; (3) the insignificant impacts to the California sea lion population of lethal removal of relatively few male, sea lions; (4) the analysis of alternatives (presented in the EA) that indicates lethal removal, with conditions, is the most appropriate course of action.

In accordance with section 120 of the MMPA, NMFS has approved the lethal taking of individually identifiable California sea lions at the Ballard Locks and sent the State of Washington a Letter of Authorization stipulating the conditions on the authorization for lethal removal. Lethal removal is authorized only if the State is in compliance with the following terms and conditions.

1. Non-lethal deterrence efforts, such as acoustic deterrence, must be attempted prior to lethal removal. If an "acoustic barrier" is implemented, sea lions that enter and remain in the ensonified area exhibiting predatory behavior should be captured and placed in captivity, if temporary holding is feasible and practical.

2. Only "predatory" California sea lions may be lethally removed. A "predatory" sea lion is an individually identified sea lion (i.e., an animal with a brand mark, tags, or other distinguishable natural marks) that has been observed preying on steelhead at any time (including past years) in the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

3. If feasible and practical, predatory sea lions are to be captured, and placed by the state in temporary holding facilities for the duration of the run.

a. The State must contact aquarium and zoo facilities in the Northwest to determine availability of suitable holding enclosures for temporary care and feeding of sea lions for up to 5 months. If appropriate facilities are available, the State shall make the necessary arrangements for holding sea lions.

b. The State also shall explore the possibility of alternate enclosures that meet animal care requirements.

c. The State shall ensure that holding facilities minimize any public observation of, or interaction with, captive animals.

4. Lethal removal of predatory sea lions is authorized only if the State determines, and obtains concurrence with such determination from the NMFS Northwest Regional Director, that: (1) Adequate holding facilities are

unavailable, or (2) temporary holding is infeasible or impractical.

5. Lethal removal is not to occur unless and until the sea lion predation rate exceeds 10 percent of the available steelhead in any consecutive 7-day period after January 1, 1995. If, after the initiation of lethal removals, the predation rate equals or falls below 10 percent for 14 consecutive days when steelhead have been recorded passing through the fish ladder, removals of newly-identified predatory sea lions will cease until the predation rate again exceeds 10 percent for any consecutive 7-day period. However, predatory sea lions identified prior to the end of a 14-day reduced predation period may still be removed.

6. Active capture methods utilizing entangle nets and potential use of drugs that may result in sea lion mortality are authorized only during the period when lethal removal is authorized in accordance with Condition 5. above.

7. The State will convene an Animal Care Committee (ACC) to provide recommendations on the handling of the sea lions.

a. The ACC membership is: (1) To consist of veterinarians, marine mammal caretakers, and Federal and State marine mammal biologists; and (2) to be approved by the NMFS Northwest Regional Director.

b. The ACC shall review and make recommendations on the adequacy of the temporary holding enclosures and the means of feeding and caretaking.

c. The ACC shall review any complications with captive holding and make recommendations regarding the care of the sea lions, including euthanasia if, in their opinion, it is necessary.

d. The ACC shall review active capture protocols and make recommendations on the procedures and use of any drugs.

e. The ACC shall develop protocols for euthanizing sea lions.

8. Predatory sea lions that are identified for lethal removal are to be captured and euthanized using protocols developed by the ACC. However, the State shall provide the sea lions identified for lethal removal to an Indian tribe with treaty rights to harvest marine mammals in the Lake Washington Ship Canal that requests the animals for subsistence use. In that circumstance, the State shall allow the tribe to dispatch the animal in a humane manner that allows for subsistence use.

9. The State must notify NMFS if 15 sea lions are removed (nonlethal or lethal). NMFS will immediately reconvene the Task Force for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness

of the measures implemented and making recommendations on further actions.

10. This authorization may be modified or revoked by NMFS based on any Task Force recommendations provided under Condition 9. above.

11. This authorization is valid until June 31, 1997, although it may be modified as needed.

a. On September 1 of each year that this authorization is valid, the State must submit a report on efforts undertaken to reduce predation, its compliance with the conditions in this authorization, and how the State will comply with the conditions in the following year.

b. Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1389(c)(5), after receipt of the report, NMFS will ask the Task Force to evaluate the State's report and the effectiveness of the alternative actions and any lethal take. NMFS will consider the report, the Task Force's recommendations, and the issues set out in 16 U.S.C. 1389, and may modify the authorization and conditions for the following year, or revoke the authorization for lethal take.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA requires that Federal agencies conduct an environmental analysis of their actions to determine if the actions may affect the environment. Accordingly, NMFS and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife produced an EA that explores the environmental consequences of a combination of actions including lethal removal as a last resort to protect the depressed Lake Washington winter-run of wild steelhead migrating through the Lake Washington Ship Canal and Ballard Locks from predation by California sea lions. The number of steelhead escaping to spawn has declined from about 2,600 fish in the 1983 season to only 70 fish last season. Action to reduce or eliminate predation is necessary, because California sea lions have consumed as much as 60 percent of the returning adult wild steelhead as they migrate through the Ballard Locks area, and such exploitation rates can have a significant impact on the status or recovery of the Lake Washington winter-run steelhead.

The proposed action is to lethally remove individually identifiable sea lions as a last resort, only after non-lethal deterrence in combination with captive holding are not sufficient to remove predatory sea lions from the Locks area. All practicable attempts would be made to capture and place the predatory sea lions in captivity during the duration of the run prior to lethal

taking. Lethal taking would be applied only to those few predatory sea lions that have been observed to prey on steelhead. Lethal removal is proposed as a last resort, because non-lethal alternatives have been shown to have limited success in reducing predation. Additional conditions on lethal removal are described above.

NOAA has evaluated the environmental consequences of the proposed action and has concluded that it is unlikely to result in any significant impacts on the human environment and therefore has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). The EA and FONSI have been prepared in accordance with NEPA and implementing regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 and NOAA Administrative Order 216-6. In addition, in accordance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act, the Washington State Department Of Wildlife has made a final determination of non-significance pursuant to chapter 232-19 of the Washington Administrative Code.

Dated: January 12, 1995.

Pat Montanio,

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

[FR Doc. 95-1339 Filed 1-18-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 010995F]

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 5 to scientific research and enhancement permit 795 (P503A).

Notice is hereby given that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has applied in due form for modification 5 to scientific research and enhancement permit 795 (P503A) to take listed species as authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227). Permit 795, issued on July 29, 1992, authorizes IDFG to carry out scientific research and enhancement activities, including a captive broodstock program, with endangered Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*).

For modification 5, IDFG requests authorization to: (1) Release second generation progeny of anadromous sockeye salmon that returned to Redfish

Lake in 1991; (2) release progeny of 1991 outmigrant sockeye females spawned in 1993 with anadromous sockeye males; (3) release broodyear 1993 progeny of anadromous sockeye females that returned to Redfish Lake in 1993; and (4) increase the annual number of outmigrant sockeye juveniles to be trapped and handled at the Redfish Lake Creek weir. Activities 1-3 are proposed for 1995 only. Activity 4 is proposed for the duration of the permit. Permit 795 expires on July 31, 1997.

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226, within 30 days of the publication of this notice. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular application would be appropriate. The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in this application summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Documents submitted in connection with the above application are available for review by interested persons in the following offices by appointment:

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

Environmental and Technical Services Division, NMFS, NOAA, 525 North East Oregon St., Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232 (503-230-5400).

Dated: January 11, 1995.

Patricia Montanio,

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

[FR Doc. 95-1342 Filed 1-18-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 011095D]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for a scientific research permit (P770#68) and an application for modification 2 to scientific research permit 900 (P770#66).

Notice is hereby given that the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center has applied in due form for a scientific

research permit (P770#68) and modification 2 to scientific research permit 900 (P770#66) to take listed species as authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

The NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center requests a permit to conduct 6 studies with a take of the following endangered species: Adult and juvenile Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), juvenile Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and juvenile Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*). The objective of study 1 is to compare the survival to adulthood of spring/summer chinook salmon smolts transported from either Lower Granite or Little Goose Dam on the Snake River to below Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River with the survival to adulthood of smolts migrating voluntarily through 6 or 7 dams and reservoirs under prevailing river conditions. The objective of study 2 is to assess the migration timing and relative survival of transported and inriver juvenile chinook salmon migrating voluntarily from Bonneville Dam to the mouth of the Columbia River. The objective of studies 3-6 is to determine the effectiveness of fish guidance devices and other bypass system components being considered for installation at 4 Snake and Columbia River hydroelectric dams for the purpose of improving anadromous fish passage past these dams during juvenile outmigration. Studies 1 and 2 are requested for a duration of 5 years. Studies 3-6 are requested for a duration of 1 year.

For modification 2 to Permit 900, the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center requests an increase in the take of juvenile, endangered, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with study 3, a preliminary evaluation of the new juvenile collection, bypass, and sampling facility at McNary Dam. The increased take is requested to test an automatic system for detecting and diverting run-of-the-river fish tagged with passive integrated transponders (PIT) from the population of fish moving through the collection facility. The purpose of the automatic PIT tag detector and diversion system is to facilitate the collection of scientific information on juvenile salmonid migration while minimizing adverse impacts to the fish. The increased take is requested for 1995 only.

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this application