

Background

Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon are a unique population of chinook salmon in the Sacramento River and are distinguished from other runs based on the timing of their upstream migration and spawning season. Adult winter-run chinook generally leave the ocean and migrate through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the upper Sacramento River during the winter and spawn during the summer.

The Endangered Species Act requires that a recovery plan be developed and implemented for the survival and conservation of listed species, unless it is determined that a plan will not promote the conservation of the species. Because it was determined that a recovery plan was necessary for the survival and conservation of the endangered Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, NMFS appointed a Recovery Team (Team) to assist in the development of the recovery plan for the species. In March 1996, the Team submitted its final recommendations to NMFS. NMFS used these recommendations to formulate the Draft Winter-run Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan.

The draft plan discusses the natural history and current status of winter-run chinook salmon and factors leading to its decline. The draft plan identifies delisting criteria and proposes specific recovery measures considered necessary to achieve recovery and delist the species. Recovery measures are identified for seven broad goals, including restoring spawning and rearing habitat, improving juvenile survival, improving adult passage in their upstream migration; artificial propagation, harvest management, improving other fish and wildlife management programs, and improving our understanding of life history and habitat requirements. In addition, an economic analysis evaluates the costs to recovering winter-run chinook.

Public Comments Solicited

NMFS intends that the final recovery plan will take advantage of information and recommendations from all interested parties. Therefore, comments and suggestions are solicited from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, and any other person concerned with this draft recovery plan. Based on requests from the public, NMFS will schedule, announce, and conduct public hearings on the draft recovery plan as necessary.

Dated: July 31, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072997A]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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 (Council) will hold a meeting of its Calico Scallop Committee and Advisory Panel, Golden Crab Committee, Joint Executive and Finance Committee, Snapper Grouper Committee, Mackerel Committee, Habitat Committee, and Bluefish Committee. A Council Session will also be held.

DATES: The meetings will be held from August 18-22, 1997. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC; telephone: (803) 571-1000; (800) 334-6660.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (803) 571-4366; fax: (803) 769-4520; email: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

August 18, 1997, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Joint Calico Scallop Committee and Advisory Panel

The Committee and Advisory Panel will meet to review the management options paper and develop the draft Calico Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

August 19, 1997, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Golden Crab Committee

The Committee will meet to review the draft framework action and develop recommendations for the Council.

August 19, 1997, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.—Joint Executive and Finance Committee

The Committees will meet to review and approve proposed changes to 1997 activities and budget and to review and approve the proposed 1998 activities schedule and budget.

August 19, 1997, 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will meet to receive presentations on *Oculina* research, gag grouper, the South Carolina tagging program, and the economic impact research on saltwater anglers.

August 20, 1997, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will meet to review comments from public hearings, letters and NMFS informal review of Snapper Grouper Amendment 9 and the associated Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, and to develop recommendations for finalizing Amendment 9.

August 21, 1997, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Mackerel Committee

The Committee will meet to hear the status of Amendment 8 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP and framework actions, review the dolphin options paper, and develop management measures for dolphin.

August 21, 1997, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.—Habitat Committee

The Committee will meet to hear a status report on the essential fish habitat workshop process, and to review the essential fish habitat plan and comprehensive amendment.

August 21, 1997, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Bluefish Committee

The Committee will meet to review the Bluefish public hearing draft document and develop recommendations to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

August 21, 1997, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.—Council Session

The full Council will convene to elect a Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman and hear the Mackerel Committee report before developing management measures for dolphin.

August 22, 1997, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Council Session

The full Council will convene at 8:30 a.m., to take public comment on Snapper Grouper Amendment 9 before hearing the Snapper Grouper Committee report and taking final action on Amendment 9 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce; At 11:00 a.m., the Council will take public comment on golden crab framework actions before making a decision on these actions as necessary; At 2:00 p.m., the Council will

hear the Calico Scallop Committee report before taking action on which measures to include in the Calico Scallop FMP. From 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Council will hear the Habitat Committee report, and the Bluefish Committee report before approving Council bluefish amendment recommendations to the MAFMC and the ASMFC. At 3:00 p.m., the Council will hear the Executive and Finance Committee report and approve the proposed changes to 1997 activities and budget, and approve the proposed 1998 activities schedule and budget, hear a report on the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, agency and liaison reports, and discuss other business.

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 August 11, 1997.

Dated: July 31, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 073097A]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of Scientific Research Permit 1053, Issuance of Modification 4 to Scientific Research Permit 962, and Notice of Receipt of Application for a Scientific Research Permit (P648).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on July 14, 1997, NMFS issued scientific research permit 1053 to Molly Lutcavage, of the New England Aquarium (P645), to take listed leatherback turtles, and on July 23, 1997, NMFS issued modification 4 to scientific research permit 962 issued to Carlos Diez and Robert van Dam, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (P509B), to take listed hawksbill and green turtles for the purpose of scientific research subject to certain conditions set forth therein. Notice is also given that Samuel S. Sadove of Coastal Research &

Education Society of Long Island, Inc. (P648) has applied in due form for a scientific research permit to take listed sea turtles.

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

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room 13307, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508-281-9250).

or

Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813-893-3141).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice was published on May 8, 1997 (62 FR 25174) that an application had been filed by Dr. Molly Lutcavage, New England Aquarium (P645), to take listed leatherback turtles as authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222).

Dr. Lutcavage requested a one year permit to satellite tag eight (8) listed leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) turtles to determine vulnerability of leatherbacks to incidental capture by pelagic longline fisheries; to relate specific travel routes of leatherback turtles equipped with satellite transmitters to fishing activities and oceanographic features; to assist pelagic fishermen in the development of fishing techniques that reduce interactions with leatherback turtles; and to develop safe handling procedures and satellite attachment techniques. On July 14, 1997, NMFS issued Permit 1053 authorizing the above activities.

Notice was published on June 17, 1997 (62 FR 32768) that a request had been filed by Carlos Diez (P509B), to modify permit 962, to take listed sea turtles as authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222).

Carlos Diez and Robert van Dam are authorized under permit 962 to examine, photograph, measure, and tag 200 listed hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and 20 listed green (*Chelonia mydas*) sea turtles annually, in the waters surrounding Mona and Monito Islands, Puerto Rico. Additionally, some of the turtles may be lavaged, have blood or scute samples taken, or have time-depth recorders or crittercams

attached. Modification 4, issued by NMFS on July 23, 1997, authorizes the following modifications to permit 962: 1) an increase in the level of take of hawksbill turtles to a total of 300 annually; 2) an increase in the level of take of green turtles to a total of 100 annually; 3) authorization to net capture green turtles; 4) authorization to include the Puerto Rican Islands of Culebra, Vieques, Desecheo, and Caja de Muertos in the study area; 5) authorization to collect up to 10 cc's of blood from all turtles taken under the authority of this permit for genetic analysis and sex determination; and 6) authorization to include Teresa Tellevast, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as an agent under this permit.

Samuel S. Sadove, Coastal Research & Education Society of Long Island, Inc. (P648), requests a Scientific Research Permit under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

The applicant is requesting a three year permit to take listed Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), and leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtles to determine the distribution, habitat use, survivorship, and recruitment of turtles in New York State waters. The turtles would be weighed, measured, photographed, blood sampled, fecal sampled, and tagged. The proposed study would continue ten years of research initiated by the applicant while acting as an agent for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, pursuant to the State of New York ESA Section 6 cooperative agreement.

Issuance of these permits/modifications, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) were applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that is/are the subject of the permits/modifications, and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 31, 1997.

Nancy Chu,

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

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