

Dated: November 12, 1998.

Robert E. Hebner,

Acting Deputy Director, NIST.

[FR Doc. 98-30742 Filed 11-16-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110998E]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research and research/enhancement permits (1179, 1185, 1186); Issuance of scientific research permits (1162, 1167).

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 Natural Resource Scientists, Inc., (NRSI) in Red Bluff, CA (1185) and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) at Boise, ID (1179, 1186); NMFS has issued permits to Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN) (1162) and Peter B. Moyle (1167).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the applications must be received on or before December 17, 1998.

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

For permits 1162, 1167, and 1185: Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528 (707-575-6066).

For permits 1179 and 1186: Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

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 1162, 1167, and 1185: Tom Hablett, Protected Resources Division, (707-575-6066).

For permits 1179 and 1186: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (503-230-5424).

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 below application summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Issuance of permits, as required by the ESA, is based on a finding that such permits: (1) Are 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. Permits are 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

The following species are covered in this notice: Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), and Steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*).

To date, protective regulations for threatened California Central Valley (CCVa) steelhead under section 4(d) of the ESA have not been promulgated by NMFS. This notice of receipt of applications requesting takes of this species is issued as a precaution in the event that NMFS issues protective regulations that prohibit takes of threatened CCVa steelhead. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on these applications, including their proposed takes of threatened CCVa steelhead, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations.

New Applications Received

IDFG requests two 5-year permits (1179, 1186) that would authorize an annual direct take of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer (SnRS/S) chinook salmon associated with a hatchery supplementation program at the Pahsimeroi River in ID (1186), and at the headwaters of the Salmon River (Sawtooth Hatchery), East Fork Salmon River, and South Fork Salmon River in ID (1179). Permit 1186 would replace permit 922 which expires on December 31, 1998. Permit 1179 would replace permits 919, 920, and 921 which expire

on December 31, 1998. The enhancement of ESA-listed SnRS/S chinook salmon stocks is expected by increasing the genetic integrity of the species and by providing egg-to-adult survival improvement through hatchery rearing as compared to natural incubation and rearing. IDFG proposes to retain a percentage of the ESA-listed adult salmon that return to the respective watersheds each year for broodstock and to release all of the ESA-listed adult salmon not retained for broodstock to spawn naturally. ESA-listed adult salmon retained for broodstock are proposed to be transported to a hatchery and spawned. The resulting progeny are proposed to be reared in the hatcheries, tagged with internal identifiers, and released in the respective streams of origin when ready to outmigrate to the ocean. Annual incidental takes of ESA-listed species associated with adult and juvenile fish releases are also requested.

NRSI (1185) requests a 5-year permit for takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, CCVa steelhead associated with fish population studies on the Mokelumne and Merced Rivers within the Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU). Steelhead studies conducted by NRSI consist of three assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken: (1) Presence/absence, (2) population estimates, and (3) migratory trends. ESA-listed fish will be observed or captured, anesthetized, handled (weighed and measured), allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. Indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested.

Permits Issued

Notice was published on July 14, 1998 (63 FR 37851), that an application had been filed by SPAWN for a scientific research permit. Permit 1162 was issued to SPAWN on October 28, 1996, and authorizes takes of juvenile, threatened, central California coast (CCC) coho salmon associated with fish population and habitat studies on San Geronimo Creek and its tributaries within the ESU. ESA-listed fish may be captured, handled and released. Permit 1162 expires on June 30, 2003.

Notice was published on July 14, 1998 (63 FR 37851), that an application had been filed by Peter B. Moyle for a scientific research permit. Permit 1167 was issued to Peter B. Moyle on October 28, 1998, and authorizes takes of juvenile, threatened, CCC coho salmon associated with fish population and habitat studies throughout the ESU. ESA-listed fish may be observed. Permit 1167 expires on June 30, 2003.

Dated: November 9, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-30618 Filed 11-16-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 103098B]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Shark Fisheries; Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Application for EFP; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an EFP. If granted, this EFP would authorize, over a period of 1 year, collections of a limited number of sharks from the large coastal, pelagic, and small coastal groups from Federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean for the purpose of shark identification training.

DATES: Written comments on the applications must be received on or before December 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The application and copies of the regulations under which exempted fishing permits are subject may also be requested from this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margo Schulze, 301-713-2347; fax: 301-713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This EFP is requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and regulations at 50 CFR 600 concerning scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity.

Special Agent Paul Raymond intends to conduct a series of shark species identification courses for NMFS enforcement, United States Coast Guard, and Florida Marine Patrol personnel. In order to obtain specimens for this "hands-on" training, Special Agent Raymond has requested that Mr. Eric Sanders, a former commercial fisherman, be authorized to collect a maximum of 234 sharks (i.e., two

individuals per the 39 federally-managed species for three training sessions for a total of 234 fish) by bottom longline. Fishing will occur in the Atlantic Ocean off east central Florida. Issuance of an EFP is necessary because possession of five large coastal shark species is prohibited and because the commercial fishery for large coastal sharks is closed for extended periods.

The proposed collections involve activities otherwise prohibited by regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean. The applicant requests authorization to fish for and to possess large coastal sharks outside the Federal commercial seasons and to fish for and to possess prohibited species.

NMFS finds that this application warrants further consideration because Atlantic sharks are extremely difficult to identify by species once the carcasses have been commercially dressed and the primary diagnostic characteristics (head, fins, and tail) have been removed. Therefore, thorough "hands-on" training of Federal and state personnel that will be enforcing Atlantic shark regulations is extremely critical to the effectiveness of the regulations. A final decision on issuance of EFPs will depend on the submission of all required information, NMFS' review of public comments received on the applications, conclusions of any environmental analyses conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and on any consultations with any appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, states, or Federal agencies.

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

Dated: November 6, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-30617 Filed 11-16-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101498A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 881-1443

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Alaska SeaLife Center, Box 1329,

Seward, AK 99664 (907/224-2600) has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 881-1443.

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

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

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Shapiro or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 6, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 42010) that an amendment of Permit No. 881-1443, issued March 23, 1998 (63 FR 14905), had been requested by the above-named organization. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 881-1443 authorizes the Alaska SeaLife Center to (1) import from Canada, three juvenile Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) and two juvenile harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*); (2) obtain six additional harbor seals from U.S. facilities; and (3) conduct research activities on these animals over a five-year period. These studies may assess nutritional physiology, metabolic development, and clinical health under captive conditions.

This amendment now authorizes the Holder to: (1) collect whiskers or toenails from each harbor seal for background concentrations of stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen; (2) feed the harbor seals fish, or inject them with solution containing stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen; and (3) collect serial biopsies of blubber and muscle to assess lipid profiles.

Dated: November 5, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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