

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute;
Notice of Decision on Application for
Duty-Free Entry of Electron
Microscope**

This is a decision pursuant to section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 00-039. *Applicant:* Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY 12180-3590. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope, Model JEM-2010. *Manufacturer:* JEOL Ltd., Japan. *Intended Use:* See notice at 66 FR 7626, January 24, 2001. *Order Date:* December 13, 1999.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as the instrument is intended to be used, was being manufactured in the United States at the time the instrument was ordered. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument is a conventional transmission electron microscope (CTEM) and is intended for research or scientific educational uses requiring a CTEM. We know of no CTEM, or any other instrument suited to these purposes, which was being manufactured in the United States at the time of order of the instrument.

Gerald A. Zerdy,

Program Manager, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 01-5281 Filed 3-2-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration****Availability of Seats for the Channel
Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council**

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or Sanctuary) is seeking applicants for the following vacant seats on its Sanctuary Advisory

Council (Council): Research member; Education member; and Fishing alternate. Applicants are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the conservation and management of marine resources; and the length of residence in the area affected by the Sanctuary. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve three-year terms, pursuant to the Council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by March 10, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Michael Murray at 115 Harbor Way, Suite 150, Santa Barbara, CA 96825. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Murray at (805) 884-1464, or michael.murray@noaa.gov, or visit the CINMS web site at: www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CINMS Advisory Council was originally established in December 1998 and has a broad representation consisting of 20 members, including ten government agency representatives and ten members from the general public. The Council functions in an advisory capacity to the Sanctuary Manager. The Council works in concert with the Sanctuary Manager by keeping him or her informed about issues of concern throughout the Sanctuary, offering recommendations on specific issues, and aiding the Manager in achieving the goals of the Sanctuary program. Specifically, the Council's objectives are to provide advice on: (1) Protecting natural and cultural resources, and identifying and evaluating emergent or critical issues involving Sanctuary use or resources; (2) Identifying and realizing the Sanctuary's research objectives; (3) Identifying and realizing educational opportunities to increase the public knowledge and stewardship of the Sanctuary environment; and (4) Assisting to develop an informed constituency to increase awareness and understanding of the purpose and value of the Sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Section 1431 et seq. (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: February 27, 2001.

Margaret A. Davidson,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 01-5287 Filed 3-2-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

[I.D.022601C]

**Endangered and Threatened Species;
Take of Anadromous Fish**

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

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Puget Sound Treaty Tribes submitted a jointly developed Resource Management Plan (RMP) pursuant to the protective regulations promulgated for Puget Sound chinook salmon under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The RMP specifies the future management of commercial, recreational and tribal salmon fisheries potentially affecting listed Puget Sound chinook salmon. This document serves to notify the public of the availability for comment of the proposed evaluation of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) as to how the RMP addresses the criteria in the ESA.

DATES: Written comments on the Secretary's proposed evaluation must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on March 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the evaluation should be addressed to Susan Bishop, Sustainable Fisheries Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, Washington 98115-0070. Comments may also be sent via fax to 206/526-6736. The document is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/>, Sustainable Fisheries Division site. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Bishop at phone number: 206/526-4587, or e-mail: susan.bishop@noaa.gov regarding the RMP.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is relevant to the Puget Sound chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU).

Background

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Puget Sound Treaty Tribes have provided a jointly

developed RMP for Puget Sound chinook. The RMP encompasses fisheries within the range of the Puget Sound chinook salmon ESU, as well as the western Strait of Juan de Fuca, which is not within the ESU. Harvest objectives specified in the RMP account for fisheries-related mortality throughout the migratory range of Puget Sound chinook from Oregon and Washington to Southeast Alaska. The RMP also includes implementation, monitoring and evaluation procedures designed to ensure fisheries are consistent with these objectives.

As required by § 223.203 (b)(6) of the ESA 4(d) rule, the Secretary must determine pursuant to 50 CFR 223.209 and pursuant to the government to government processes therein whether the RMP for Puget Sound chinook would appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the Puget Sound chinook and other affected threatened ESUs. The Secretary must take comments on how the RMP addresses the criteria in § 223.203(b)(4) in making that determination.

Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary is required to adopt such regulations as he deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of the species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. The rule further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the rule do not apply to actions undertaken in compliance with a RMP developed jointly by the State of Washington and the Tribes (joint plan) and determined by the Secretary to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000).

Dated: February 27, 2001.

Phil Williams,

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

[FR Doc. 01-5259 Filed 3-2-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021601B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Prohibited Species Donation Program

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

ACTION: Authorization and Renewal.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the renewal of Northwest Food Strategies' (NFS) authorization to donate Pacific halibut to economically disadvantaged individuals under the Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) program. This action is necessary to comply with provisions of the PSD program implemented at 50 CFR part 679.

DATES: January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the PSD Permit may be obtained from the Sustainable Fisheries Division, NMFS, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-21668, Attn: Lori Gravel. Copies of Amendments 50 to the groundfish FMPs and of the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR) prepared for the amendments may be obtained from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 West 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99510-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nina Mollett, 907-586-7462.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The domestic groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area are managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMPs). The FMPs were prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Regulations governing the Alaska groundfish fisheries appear at 50 CFR parts 600 and 679. Fishing for Pacific halibut in waters in and off Alaska is governed by the Convention between the United States and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea and by

regulations adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission and approved by the Secretary of State of the United States pursuant to section 4 of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act (16 U.S.C. 773-773k).

Amendments 50/50 to the FMPs, which authorize the PSD program, were published in the **Federal Register** on June 12, 1998 (63 FR 32144). These amendments expanded the existing Salmon Donation Program by creating a program that includes Pacific halibut as well. The regulations authorize the voluntary distribution of Pacific halibut, taken incidentally in groundfish trawl fisheries off Alaska and landed at shoreside processing plants, to needy individuals by tax-exempt organizations, through an authorized distributor.

The Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) selected NFS, 600 Erickson Avenue, Suite 395, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 to be an authorized distributor, as defined by 50 CFR 679.2, based on information submitted by NFS as required under § 679.26. The selection was announced in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 43380, August 13, 1998) and a permit was issued to NFS. A PSD permit issued to an authorized distributor may be renewed following application procedures at § 679.26(b).

The PSD program was scheduled to expire on December 31, 2000. This sunset provision was established to allow time for agency evaluation before Council action was taken to make it a permanent program. Following evaluation, NMFS permanently extended the PSD program on January 1, 2001 (65 FR 78119, December 14, 2000).

NFS had been authorized to distribute Pacific halibut under the PSD program from August 13, 1998, through December 31, 2000. During this period, NFS effectively coordinated the distribution of prohibited halibut bycatch for 3 years. NFS employed an independent seafood laboratory to ensure product quality and received support from cold storage facilities and common carriers servicing the areas where Pacific halibut donation would take place. The company worked with three shoreside processors located in Dutch Harbor, AK. Approximately 6 to 10 metric tons were landed and donated annually. NFS anticipates that this amount could increase.

NFS has submitted an application to renew its status as an authorized distributor. NMFS has reviewed NFS' application, and, on the basis of information submitted in the application, selects NFS as an authorized distributor. This document