

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by March 16, 1998.

Dated: March 2, 1998.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-5765 Filed 3-5-98; 8:45 am]

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### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022798B]

#### Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public meetings of the Socioeconomic Panel (SEP).

**DATES:** A joint meeting of the SEP Coastal Pelagics Subgroup and the Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Stock Assessment Panel will be held beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 1998 and will continue through Tuesday, March 24, 1998. On Wednesday, March 25, the entire SEP will hold their meeting, which will conclude by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The joint meeting will be held at NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL. The separate SEP meeting will be held at the Club Hotel & Suites by Doubletree, 100 SE 4th Street, Miami, FL.

**Council address:** Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Antonio B. Lamberte, Economist; telephone: 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SEP members will meet to review available social and economic information on the Gulf migratory group of king and Spanish mackerels and to determine the social and economic implications of the levels of acceptable biological catches recommended by the Council's Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel. The SEP may recommend to the Council total allowable catch levels for the 1998-99 fishing year. In addition, the SEP will address certain issues related to the assessment of regulatory impacts on fishing communities.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by contacting the Gulf Council (see ADDRESSES).

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by March 16, 1998.

Dated: March 2, 1998.

**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. 030298B]

#### Endangered Species; Permits

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of applications for a scientific research permit (1122, 1137) and modifications to permits 948 and 994.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg District Office at Roseburg, OR (BLM) (1122) and the Fish Ecology Division, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS at Seattle, WA (NWFSC) (1137) have applied in due form for permits; and that the Northern Wasco County People's Utility District at The

Dalles, OR (NWCPUD) (948) and the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Moscow, ID (ICFWRU) (994) have applied in due form for modifications to permits that would authorize takes of listed species for the purpose of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications must be received on or before April 6, 1998.

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

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

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

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For permit 1122 - Tom Lichatowich, PRD (503-230-5438);

For permits 1137, 948, and 994 - Robert Koch, PRD (503-230-5424).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** BLM (1122) and NWFSC (1137) request permits; and NWCPUD (948) and ICFWRU (994) request modifications to permits 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).

BLM (1122) requests a five-year permit for an annual direct take of juvenile, endangered, Umpqua River cutthroat trout (URCT) *Oncorhynchus clarki clarki* associated with a research project designed to determine sub-basin contribution to the migratory population. This information will benefit wild populations by identifying important habitat areas where restoration efforts will have the most impact. BLM proposes to use screw traps to estimate abundance from selected sub-basins and will radio-tag up to 20 of the fish captured in each sub-basin to determine whether the fish are resident, fluvial, or anadromous. The proposal will concentrate on Canton, Rock, Calapooya and Myrtle Creeks as well as Little River of the Umpqua River during the outmigration period of March through June. URCT will be captured, anesthetized, handled (measured, tagged, marked as appropriate) and allowed to recover before release. ESA-listed juvenile fish

indirect mortalities associated with the scientific research activities are also requested.

NWFSC (1137) requests a one-year scientific research permit for takes of juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*); juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*); juvenile, threatened, Snake River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*); and juvenile lower Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (currently proposed as threatened) associated with four scientific research studies at hydropower dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in the Pacific Northwest. The purpose of the four studies are: (Study 1) to evaluate a prototype fish separator at Ice Harbor Dam; (Study 2) to establish biological design criteria for fish passage facilities at McNary Dam; (Study 3) to evaluate vertical barrier screens, outlet flow control devices, and methods of debris control at McNary and Little Goose Dams; and (Study 4) to evaluate extended-length bar screens at the first powerhouse of Bonneville Dam. ESA-listed juvenile fish would be captured, handled with some tagged with passive integrated transponders, and released. The applicant requests lethal take of ESA-listed juvenile fish, as well as indirect mortalities of ESA-listed juvenile fish associated with the research activities.

NWCPUD requests modification 2 to scientific research permit 948. Permit 948 authorizes NWCPUD annual takes of juvenile, ESA-listed, Snake River salmon associated with a study designed to assess run-of-the-river juvenile anadromous fish condition after passage through the screened turbine intake channel at The Dalles Dam, located on the Columbia River. For modification 2, NWCPUD requests an annual take of juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead and juvenile, threatened, Snake River steelhead associated with the research. ESA-listed juvenile steelhead are proposed to be captured, handled, and released. ESA-listed juvenile steelhead indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested. Modification 2 is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit which expires on September 30, 1999.

ICFWRU requests modification 3 to scientific research permit 994. Permit 994 authorizes ICFWRU annual takes of adult, ESA-listed, Snake River salmon associated with a study designed to assess the passage success of migrating adult salmonids at the four dams and reservoirs in the lower Columbia River, evaluate adult fish responses to specific flow and spill conditions, and evaluate measures to improve adult fish passage. For modification 3, ICFWRU requests an increase in the take of adult, threatened, Snake River spring/summer and fall chinook salmon associated with the research. Also for modification 3, a new study is proposed. The new study is designed to determine if adult salmon successfully return to natal streams or hatcheries and if homing is affected by mode of seaward migration (in-river versus transport). ESA-listed adult salmon are proposed to be captured at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River, fitted with radio transmitters and identifier tags, and released. Once returned to the river, ESA-listed adult fish will be tracked electronically to hatcheries and spawning grounds. Modification 3 is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit which expires on December 31, 2000.

To date, protective regulations for threatened Snake River 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 Snake River steelhead. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on the applications, including their proposed takes of Snake River steelhead, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations. To date, a listing determination for lower Columbia River steelhead under the ESA has not been promulgated by NMFS. This notice of receipt of an application requesting a take of this species is issued as a precaution in the event that NMFS issues a listing determination. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on the application, including its proposed take of lower Columbia River steelhead, does not presuppose a listing determination.

Those individuals requesting a hearing (see ADDRESSES) should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on this 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.

Dated: March 2, 1998.

**Marta F. Nammack,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022498C]

#### Endangered Species; Permits

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of an application for modification 5 to scientific research permit 822.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Fish Passage Center at Portland, OR (FPC) has applied in due form for a modification to a permit that would authorize takes of endangered and threatened anadromous steelhead for the purpose of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application must be received on or before April 6, 1998.

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

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

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, PRD (503-230-5424).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FPC requests a modification to a permit 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).

FPC requests modification 5 to permit 822. Permit 822 authorizes FPC annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*); juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon