

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held from May 10 through May 13, 1999. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Omni Austin Hotel, 700 San Jacinto, Austin, Texas; telephone: 512-476-3700.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public meetings will be held on:

Monday, May 10, 1999

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.—Convene the Shrimp Management Committee to review a draft amendment options paper addressing reduction of shrimp trawl bycatch in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. The options paper will be revised into a draft amendment at a subsequent Council meeting and be presented at public hearings in the late summer or fall.

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.—Convene the Joint Shrimp/Reef Fish Management Committees to hear a presentation by NMFS scientists on the results of their study on the effectiveness of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in reducing the bycatch of juvenile red snapper in shrimp trawls.

3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to approve Draft Reef Fish Amendment 17 for public hearings that will be held in June. The amendment proposes to extend the moratorium on issuance of commercial reef fish vessel permits. The committee will hear and may act on a report on the recommendations of the red snapper recreational workshop participants on actions that could be taken to extend the recreational red snapper season. The committee will also hear and may act on a NMFS report on the status of approval of the Council's regulatory amendment to set red snapper total allowable catch (TAC) for 1999.

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Convene the Mackerel Management Committee to review stock assessment and socioeconomic information and to develop their TAC recommendations to

the Council, which can include bag limits, size limits, trip limits, and seasons. The committee will also approve Draft Mackerel Amendment 12 for public hearings to be held in June. The amendment proposes to extend the moratorium on issuance of commercial king mackerel vessel permits.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.—Convene the Marine Reserves Committee to review a draft scoping document that will be presented at workshops in the fall.

3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Administrative Policy Committee to consider amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Wednesday, May 12, 1999*Council*

8:30 a.m.—Convene.

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.—Receive a report on completion of the Federal Billfish Amendment and Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Receive public testimony on the total allowable catch (TAC) for mackerels and coastal pelagics.

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.—Receive the Mackerel Management Committee Report.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.—Receive the Shrimp Management Committee Report.

Thursday, May 13, 1999

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.—Receive the Reef Fish Management Committee Report.

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.—Receive the Administrative Policy Committee Report.

9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.—Receive the Marine Reserves Committee Report.

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.—Receive the Joint Shrimp/Reef Fish Committee Report.

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.—Receive the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Advisory Committee (ICCAT) meeting report.

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.—Receive the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Liaison Report.

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—Receive Enforcement Reports.

11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.—Receive Director's Reports.

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Other Business.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) is currently reviewing implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As part of this effort, two GAO staff will be attending the Council meeting the week of May 10th and will be available to talk

to anyone who wishes to provide information or examples on the subjects detailed here.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Senate Report 105-235 mandates that GAO review National Marine Fisheries Service compliance with the national standards to base conservation and management measures on the best scientific information available and that such measures take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities. The report also mandates that GAO review NMFS' implementation of the essential fish habitat provisions. GAO is interested in interviewing anyone who wishes to provide information or examples with respect to these three areas.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council 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 May 3, 1999.

Dated: April 19, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-10294 Filed 4-23-99; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 041999B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for a scientific research permit (1215); receipt of applications to modify permits (1102, 1136, 1140); issuance of modifications to existing permits (1058, 1174).

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 a permit application from the Washington Department of Natural Resources in Olympia, WA (WDNR); NMFS has received applications for modifications to existing permits from: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Vancouver, WA (WDFW) (1102), Oregon Cooperative Fishery and Wildlife Research Unit at Corvallis, OR (OCFWRU) (1136), and Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS at Seattle, WA (NWFS) (1140); NMFS has issued a permit to Mr. Harold Brundage III, of Environmental Research and Consulting, Inc. (ERCI) (1174); and NMFS has issued modifications to a scientific research permit to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Ahsahka, ID (USFWS) (1058).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received on or before May 26, 1999.

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

For permits 1058, 1102, 1136, 1140, 1215: Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

For permit 1174: Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-1401).

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 1058, 1102, 1136: Leslie Schaeffer, Portland, OR (503-230-5433).

For permits 1140, 1215: Tom Lichatowich, Portland, OR (503-230-5438).

For permit 1174: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (301-713-1401).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (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. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in this Notice

The following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESU's) are covered in this notice:

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Snake River (SnR) fall, SnR spring/summer, Upper Columbia River (UCR) spring.

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*): Oregon Coastal (OC), Southern Oregon/northern California coast (SONCC).

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*): SnR.

Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*): UCR.

Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).

To date, protective regulations for threatened OC coho salmon under section 4(d) of the ESA have 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 protective regulations that prohibit takes of threatened OC coho salmon. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on the application, including its proposed take of threatened OC coho salmon, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations.

New Applications Received

WDNR (1215) requests a 5-year permit for takes of juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, UCR steelhead associated with salmonid presence/absence surveys in proposed timber sale areas. The proposed stream surveys will determine the correct stream classification and place the stream in the correct Riparian Management Zones (RMZ). The correct RMZ designation will protect listed fish by requiring proper riparian buffers be left along streams. ESA-listed juvenile fish are

proposed to be captured using electrofishing, netted, quickly identified without being removed from the water, and immediately released to calm water to recover. Indirect mortalities of ESA-listed juvenile fish associated with the research are also requested.

Modification Requests Received

WDFW requests a modification to scientific research permit 1102. Permit 1102 authorizes WDFW annual direct takes of adult, endangered, UCR steelhead; adult, threatened, SnR spring/summer chinook salmon; and adult, threatened, SnR fall chinook salmon associated with studies designed to determine the stock composition of steelhead passing Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River and the stock composition of salmon and steelhead harvested in Columbia River fisheries. For the modification, WDFW requests an increase in the annual take of adult, threatened, SnR spring/summer chinook salmon associated with the handling of ESA-listed adult fish at Bonneville Dam. The increased annual take is requested because more adult spring chinook salmon are expected to pass Bonneville Dam in 1999 and future years. WDFW also requests an annual take of adult, endangered, UCR spring chinook salmon associated with the research. ESA-listed adult fish are proposed to be captured, anesthetized, measured and sampled for tissues and scales, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. The modification is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on January 31, 2003.

OCFWRU requests a modification to scientific research permit 1136. Permit 1136 authorizes OCFWRU annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, SnR sockeye salmon; juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, SnR spring/summer chinook salmon; juvenile, threatened, SnR fall chinook salmon; and juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, UCR steelhead associated with research designed to compare biological and physiological indices of wild and hatchery fish exposed to stress from bypass, collection, and transportation activities at dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in the Pacific Northwest. For the modification, OCFWRU requests annual takes of juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, UCR spring chinook salmon associated with the research. OCFWRU also requests that ESA-listed juvenile fish be captured at two additional locations: Little Goose Dam on the Snake River and John Day Dam on the Columbia

River. ESA-listed juvenile fish are proposed to be captured or acquired from Smolt Monitoring Program personnel, anesthetized, examined, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities are also requested. The modification is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on December 31, 2000.

NWFSC requests a modification to permit 1140. Permit 1140 authorizes annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, SnR fall chinook salmon and juvenile, threatened, SONCC coho salmon associated with a research study designed to assess the relationship between environmental variables, selected anthropogenic stresses, and bacterial and parasitic pathogens on disease-induced mortality of juvenile salmon in selected coastal estuaries in Oregon and Washington. Annual incidental takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish are also authorized by the permit. The results of the study will benefit ESA-listed species by providing a better understanding of how environmental factors influence disease. For the modification, NWFSC requests an annual direct take of juvenile, threatened, OC coho salmon. NWFSC proposes to collect ESA-listed juvenile coho salmon with seines, purse seines, and/or fyke nets in Salmon River and Tillamook, Yaquina, Alsea and Coos Bays. ESA-listed juvenile coho salmon are proposed to be lethally taken and analyzed for pathogen prevalence and intensity, chemical analyses, histopathology and stomach contents. NWFSC also requests an annual incidental take and incidental mortalities of juvenile, endangered, UCR spring chinook salmon. The modification is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on December 31, 2002.

Permits and Modifications Issued

Notices were published on September 25, 1998 (63 FR 5134), and February 2, 1999 (64 FR 5030), that the USFWS had applied for modifications to scientific research permit 1058. Modification 1 to permit 1058 was issued on April 19, 1999, authorizing an increase in the annual take of adult, threatened, SnR fall chinook salmon associated with an effort to collect biological information from returning adults at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River in Washington. Data from the larger sample will be used to estimate age composition of the run to provide better information for regulating Columbia River harvest. FWS is also authorized annual takes of juvenile, threatened, SnR fall chinook salmon

associated with a new study designed to examine hatchery steelhead residualism in the Clearwater River Basin of ID. The purpose of the research is to gain a better understanding of factors leading to residualism and interactions between residuals and wild or natural stocks of fish. Modification 1 is valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on December 31, 2001.

On April 15, 1999, NMFS issued modification 2 to scientific research permit 1174 to ERCI. Permit 1174 authorizes sampling for and collection of shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River and Estuary system and in the lower Susquehanna River/Chesapeake Bay Complex. This sampling program is under contract to the NMFS Northeast Region, Protected Resources Division. The objectives of the study are to collect data on current distribution, abundance, length structure and movements of shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River Estuary and in the lower Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. Modification 2 increases the authorized annual incidental take of shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River Estuary and in the lower Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay, due to evidence that the population of shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River may be substantially higher than previously thought. This modification follows modification 1, which increased the authorized annual non-lethal take of shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River. Modification 2 is valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on August 31, 2003.

Dated: April 20, 1999.

Kevin Collins,

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

[FR Doc. 99-10406 Filed 4-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 033099A]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 917 (P774#2)

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

ACTION: Scientific research permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a request for amendment of scientific research permit no. 917 submitted by

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097, has been granted.

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 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508/281-9250); and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-5312).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 9, 1999, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 6326) that an amendment of permit no. 917, issued May 12, 1994 (59 FR 25892), 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.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: April 16, 1999.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 99-10293 Filed 4-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 99-07]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.