

The Michigan Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held May 8–12, 2006. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2006, at 7 p.m. at Northwestern Michigan College, Great Lakes Campus, Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, Room 112, 715 East Front Street, Traverse City, Michigan.

The Virginia Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held May 15–19, 2006. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be held on Monday, February 14, 2006, at 4 p.m. at the Department of Environmental Quality, First Floor Conference Room, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia.

The Indiana Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held May 30–June 2, 2006. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006, at 6 p.m. at the Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 West Indiana Avenue, Chesterton, Indiana.

Copies of states' most recent performance reports, as well as OCRM's evaluation notification and supplemental information request letters to the states, are available upon request from OCRM. Written comments from interested parties regarding these Programs are encouraged and will be accepted until 15 days after the public meeting held for a Program. Please direct written comments to Ralph Cantral, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, N/ORM7, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. When the evaluations are completed, OCRM will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

Notice is hereby given of the availability of the final evaluation findings for the South Carolina and Maine Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) and the Wells (Maine) National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Sections 312 and 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended, require a continuing review of the performance of coastal states with respect to approval of CMPs and the operation and management of NERRs.

The states of South Carolina and Maine were found to be implementing and enforcing their federally approved coastal management programs, addressing the national coastal management objectives identified in

CZMA section 303(2)(A)–(K), and adhering to the programmatic terms of their financial assistance awards. The Wells (Maine) NERR was found to be adhering to programmatic requirements of the NERR System.

Copies of these final evaluation findings may be obtained upon written request from: Ralph Cantral, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, N/ORM7, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or Ralph.Cantral@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph Cantral, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, N/ORM7, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 563–7118.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Program Administration.

Dated: February 10, 2006.

Eldon Hout,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

[FR Doc. E6–2421 Filed 2–17–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021406A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Applications for two scientific research permits and one permit modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received three scientific research permit application requests relating to Pacific salmon. The proposed research is intended to increase knowledge of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to help guide management and conservation efforts.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on the applications must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on March 23, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the applications should be sent to Protected

Resources Division, NMFS, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232–1274. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503–230–5441 or by e-mail to resapps.nwr@NOAA.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garth Griffin, Portland, OR (ph.: 503–231–2005, Fax: 503–230–5441, e-mail: Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov). Permit application instructions are available from the address above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

The following listed species are covered in this notice:

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): endangered upper Columbia River (UCR); threatened lower Columbia River (LCR); threatened upper Willamette River (UWR).

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): threatened Columbia River (CR).

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened middle Columbia River (MCR); threatened UCR; threatened UWR; threatened LCR.

Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*): threatened LCR.

Authority

Scientific research permits are issued in accordance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR 222–226). NMFS issues permits based on findings that such permits: (1) Are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permit; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policy of section 2 of the ESA. The authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits.

Anyone 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**). Such hearings are held at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS.

Applications Received

Permit 1559

The Oregon State University (OSU) is asking for a 3-year research permit to take adult and juvenile UCR Chinook salmon, UCR steelhead, MCR steelhead, UWR Chinook salmon, and UWR steelhead in randomly-selected river systems in Oregon and Washington. The research was previously approved under Permit 1156; it is designed to help managers assess the condition of rivers and streams in the 12 conterminous

western states and evaluate and develop scientifically and statistically rigorous field protocols for assessing large (unwadeable) rivers. The study would benefit listed salmonids by providing baseline information about water quality in the study areas and helping managers enforce the Clean Water Act in those river systems where listed fish are present. The OSU proposes to capture fish (using raft-mounted electrofishing equipment), sample them for biological information, and release them. The researchers will seek to avoid adult salmonids, but some may be handled as an unintentional result of the sampling. Moreover, OSU does not intend to kill any fish being captured but some juvenile fish may die as an unintentional result of the research activities.

Permit 1560

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is asking for a 3-year research permit to take adult and juvenile MCR steelhead, LCR Chinook salmon, LCR coho salmon, and CR chum salmon in the White Salmon River, Washington a tributary to the lower Columbia River. The objectives of the research are to: (1) Determine fish assemblage composition and fish use in the lower White Salmon River; (2) assess salmonid growth and survival as indices of productivity; (3) contribute to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service efforts to characterize life history, genetics, and health of Chinook stocks that currently use the lower White Salmon River; and (4) coordinate with ongoing sampling efforts associated with dam removal projects in the Elwha River system (Olympic Peninsula, Washington). The study would benefit listed salmonids by providing information on the effects dam removal may have on important fish species such as Chinook, coho, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, bull trout, and sea-run cutthroat trout. The U.S. Geodetic Survey (USGS) proposes to conduct snorkel surveys instead of capturing fish whenever possible, but they will also capture fish using backpack electrofishing equipment and traps and anesthetize, measure, weigh and inspect them for external diseases. Researchers would clip the fins of some captured fish in order to collect genetic tissues and gauge trapping efficiency. The researchers will seek to avoid adult salmonids, but some may be handled as an unintentional result of the sampling. Moreover, the USGS does not intend to kill any fish being captured but some juvenile fish may die as an unintentional result of the research activities.

Permit 1336 – Modification 1

Permit 1336 currently authorizes the Port Blakely Farms (PBF) to take juvenile UWR Chinook salmon, LCR Chinook salmon, UWR steelhead and LCR steelhead in headwater streams in western Oregon and Washington. They are asking to modify their permit so they may be allowed to take LCR coho salmon; they also wish to extend the permit's expiration date to December 31, 2010. The purpose of the research is to evaluate factors limiting fish distribution and water quality in streams owned by PBF. The research would benefit listed salmonids by producing data to be used in conserving and restoring critical habitat. The PBF proposes to capture (using backpack electrofishing and dipnetting), handle, and release juvenile fish. The PBF does not intend to kill any fish being captured but some may die as an unintentional result of the research activities.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decisions will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 14, 2006.

Angela Somma,

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. 021506C]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat/Marine Protected Area (MPA)/Ecosystem Advisory Panel in March, 2006 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive

economic zone (EEZ).

Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360; telephone: (508) 747-4900; fax: (508) 746-5386.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Panel will review the draft Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designation management alternatives for inclusion in the EFH Omnibus Amendment 2. In addition the panel will be briefed on the EFH Omnibus Amendment 2 Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) proposals; review and continued work on the Advisory Panel gear description document; discussion of a potential gear description workshop and any other topics that may be covered at the panel's discretion.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 15, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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