

made available the Draft Management Plan (DMP) for the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). This DMP sets forth the program missions, goals and objectives of the Wells NERR, and establishes policies that will protect the natural resources and ecological integrity of the Wells NERR. This management plan, when finalized, will replace, as an update the NERR's current management plan.

The public comment period for the DMP ends 30 days from the date of this notice.

Copies of the document are available upon request to the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, 342 Laudholm Road, Wells, Maine 04090. 207/646-1555.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Grimm, OCRM, Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway, 12th Floor (N/ORM2), Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (301) 713-3132, extension 118.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.420

(Coastal Zone Management) Research Reserves

Dated: March 6, 1996.

David L. Evans,

Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 96-5887 Filed 3-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

[I.D. 011996A]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Recovery Plans for Listed Sea Turtles

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Department of the Interior, (collectively, the Services) announce the availability of the proposed recovery plans for U.S. Pacific populations of endangered and threatened sea turtles, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). These reviews and any written comments received shall be considered by the Services in their approval of the final recovery plans.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted on or before May 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed recovery plans may be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected

Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Therese Conant, 301-713-1401, or Richard Byles, 505-248-6647.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The ESA is administered jointly by the Services. NMFS has jurisdiction over most species in the marine system while FWS has jurisdiction elsewhere. Listed endangered and threatened species under NMFS jurisdiction are enumerated in 50 CFR 222.23(a) and 50 CFR 227.4, respectively. The List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, which contains species under the jurisdiction of both Services, is found in 50 CFR part 17.11(h).

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement between the two Services, the jurisdiction over listed sea turtles is shared: FWS has responsibility for sea turtles primarily in the terrestrial environment, while NMFS has responsibility for sea turtles primarily in the marine environment. Presently, all sea turtle species found in the United States are listed as follows: Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) are listed as endangered; loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), and olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) turtles are listed as threatened, except for breeding populations of green turtles in Florida and on the Pacific coast of Mexico, and breeding populations of olive ridleys on the Pacific coast of Mexico, which are listed as endangered.

Section 4(f)(1) of the ESA requires that the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of endangered and threatened species listed pursuant to section 4(c) of the ESA unless such plans would not promote the conservation of the species. Pursuant to section 4(f)(4) of the ESA, prior to final approval and implementation of a new or revised recovery plan, the Secretary shall provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. The Secretary shall consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of the plan. In addition, it is the policy (59 FR 34273, July 1, 1994) of the Services to minimize social and economic impacts in developing and implementing recovery plans while providing for the timely recovery of the species.

The proposed recovery plans are for the U.S. Pacific populations of the

loggerhead, olive ridley, leatherback, hawksbill, green and the East Pacific population of the green. These are the first comprehensive proposed recovery plans for sea turtle populations in the U.S. Pacific. To accomplish the drafting of these proposed recovery plans, NMFS formed a team of professional biologists (Recovery Team) with experience in the region and with marine turtles. The recovery plans proposed by the Services are essentially the recommendations of the Recovery Team.

While similar in format to previously drafted sea turtle recovery plans for the Atlantic and the Caribbean, the unique nature of the Pacific required some changes to that format. The geographic scope of these plans is much larger than any previously attempted, with over 5,000 islands and 3,000 miles of ocean, as well as the mainland United States, to consider. Furthermore, the amount of jurisdictional overlap between nations, commonwealths, territories and compact-of-free-association-states and the various turtle populations required a broader management perspective than has been attempted previously. Finally, sea turtles have not been studied as intensively in the Pacific as in other U.S. areas, and thus there is a large void in basic biological information on the species available. Thus, these plans have more extensive text on the general biology of the turtles, so that they might act as a resource to managers seeking a handy reference to the species. The plans are also subdivided into U.S. jurisdictional areas (i.e. the various commonwealths and territories), so that local managers can address issues within their respective regions more easily.

Request for Comments

The Services intend that the final recovery plans will take advantage of information and recommendations from all interested parties. Therefore, comments and suggestions are hereby solicited from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, and any other person concerned with this proposed recovery plan area. The proposed recovery plans are available (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531-1543 *et seq.*

Dated: March 7, 1996.

Pat Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5871 Filed 3-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 030596F]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a public meeting of its Executive Committee.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 27–28, 1996. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (803) 571-1000.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (803) 571-4366; fax: (803) 769-4520; E-mail: Susan_Buchanan@safmc.nmfs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Meeting Dates**

March 27, 1996, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and March 28, 1996, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The Executive Committee will review and respond to the NMFS proposed consolidated regulations and removal of the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP); address the latest proposed Magnuson Act amendments; discuss remaining fiscal year 1996 Council activities and the fiscal year 1996 budget; begin preliminary activities and budget planning for fiscal year 1997; and discuss a Council Weakfish FMP.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by March 20, 1996.

Dated: March 5, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5749 Filed 3-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 030496D]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for modifications to a research/enhancement permit (P503A) and two incidental take permits (P503K and 503I).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in Boise, ID (IDFG) has applied in due form for modifications to permits authorizing takes of endangered and threatened species for the purpose of scientific research/enhancement and as incidental takes.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of these applications must be received on or before April 11, 1996.

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

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Environmental and Technical Services Division, 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, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: IDFG requests 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 listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

IDFG (P503A) requests modification 7 to scientific research/enhancement permit 795. Permit 795 authorizes IDFG a take of adult and juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) associated with a captive broodstock program. For modification 7, IDFG requests: (1) To release juvenile sockeye progeny of ESA-listed adults into net pens in Redfish Lake, ID from June-October annually and to release those fish from the net pens directly into the lake in October each year; and (2) an increase in the annual number of listed juvenile fish to be captured, handled, tagged with passive integrated transponders, and released during the annual juvenile outmigration. Net pen culture of juvenile presmolts was selected as the

most appropriate release strategy for listed sockeye salmon progeny by the Stanley Basin Technical Oversight Committee. A higher take limit of outmigrating, listed, juvenile sockeye salmon would provide more complete monitoring information and eliminate the need to suspend research if the currently authorized limit is reached. Modification 7 is requested for the duration of the permit. Permit 795 expires on July 31, 1997.

IDFG (P503K) requests modification 1 to permit 908. Permit 908 authorizes an incidental take of endangered Snake River sockeye salmon and threatened Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with IDFG's resident fish-stocking program, designed to increase the supply of fish in the Salmon River and its tributary streams and lakes for sport-angling. For modification 1, IDFG proposes to stock Redfish Lake with catchable-sized hatchery rainbow trout in 1996 to provide recreational fishing in the lake. In 1993 and 1995, NMFS denied IDFG's requests to stock Redfish Lake with rainbow trout because of concerns over possible interactions between stocked rainbow trout and ESA-listed sockeye salmon in the lake, primarily diet overlap and predation. IDFG believes the proposed Redfish Lake stocking scenario would have no impact on the recovery of endangered sockeye salmon since the juvenile sockeye released to the lake in 1996 are proposed to be in net pens when the majority of the rainbow trout are present (see preceding paragraph).

Also for modification 1 to permit 908, IDFG proposes to stock catchable-sized hatchery rainbow trout in Pettit Lake in 1996. In 1995, NMFS authorized IDFG a direct take of juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon associated with stocking Pettit Lake with juvenile sockeye salmon from their captive broodstock program approximately three weeks after stocking rainbow trout in the lake (modification 6, permit 795, 60 FR 37052) and required that IDFG implement a specific monitoring plan to assess the interactions between trout and sockeye in the lake (amendment, permit 908, 60 FR 40345). IDFG has sponsored scientific research that has provided evidence which suggests that hatchery rainbow trout releases in Stanley Basin lakes would not undermine endangered sockeye salmon recovery efforts. Modification 1 is requested for 1996 only. Permit 908 expires on December 31, 1998.

IDFG (P503I) requests modification 2 to permit 844. Permit 844 authorizes IDFG an incidental take of adult and juvenile, threatened, Snake River