

expected to occur over the coastal habitats in the vicinity of SLC-6 while low-level sonic booms could be heard west of the Channel Islands.

Description of Habitat and Marine Mammals Affected by LMLVs

The only marine mammal anticipated to be incidentally harassed by LMLV launches is the harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*). A description of the Southern California Bight population of harbor seals was provided on May 10, 1995 (60 FR 24840), in conjunction with publication of the previous notice of application for this activity. Interested reviewers are encouraged to refer to that document for the appropriate discussion. This document is available from NMFS (see ADDRESSES).

Potential Effects of LMLV Launches on Marine Mammals

The effect on harbor seals would be disturbance by sound that is anticipated to result in a negligible short-term impact to small numbers of harbor seals that are hauled out at the time of LMLV launches. No impacts are anticipated to animals that are in the water at the time of launch. Detailed descriptions of the expected impact from rocket launches on harbor seals and other marine mammals have been provided in previous notices (60 FR 24840, May 10, 1995; 60 FR 38308, July 26, 1995; 60 FR 43120, August 18, 1995; 60 FR 52653, October 10, 1995; and 61 FR 10727, March 15, 1996) and are not repeated here. These documents are available from NMFS (see ADDRESSES).

Conclusions

Based upon information provided by the applicant, and previous reviews of the incidental take of harbor seals by this activity, NMFS believes that the short-term impact of the launching of LMLVs is expected to result at worst, in a temporary reduction in utilization of the haulout as seals leave the beach for the safety of the water. The launching is not expected to result in any reduction in the number of harbor seals, and they are expected to continue to occupy the same area. In addition, there will not be any impact on the habitat itself. Based upon studies conducted for previous space vehicle launches at Vandenberg, significant long-term impacts on harbor seals at Vandenberg are unlikely.

Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an incidental harassment authorization for 1 year for launches of LMLVs at SLC-6 provided the monitoring and reporting requirements currently in effect (see 60 FR 24840, May 10, 1995) are continued.

NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed launches of LMLVs at SLC-6 would result in the harassment taking of only small numbers of harbor seals, will have a negligible impact on the harbor seal stock and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability for subsistence uses.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments, information, and suggestions concerning this request (see ADDRESSES).

Dated: May 9, 1997.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-12693 Filed 5-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050997B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit 1034 (P770#72), permit 1035 (P45Y), permit 1036 (P45X), and modification 1 to permit 994 (P497D).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued a permit to the Coastal Zone and Estuarine Studies Division, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS at Seattle, WA (CZESD); two permits to the Columbia River Research Laboratory, U.S. Geological Survey at Cook, WA (USGS); and a modification to a permit to the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Moscow, ID (ICFWRU) that authorize takes of Endangered Species Act-listed species for the purpose of scientific research, subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

ADDRESSES: The applications 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

Environmental and Technical Services Division, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The permits and modification to a permit

were issued 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 217-222).

Notice was published on February 28, 1997 (62 FR 9178) that an application had been filed by CZESD (P770#72) for a scientific research permit. Permit 1034 was issued to CZESD on April 15, 1997. Permit 1034 authorizes CZESD takes of juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); and juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) associated with two juvenile fish bypass studies at McNary Dam on the Columbia River. Study 1 is an evaluation of vertical barrier screens and outlet flow-control devices. Study 2 will establish design criteria for improved wet-separator efficiency and high-velocity flume development. Based on the results from these bypass studies, guidance devices and bypass system components can be redesigned, modified, or deployed using specific configurations to enhance juvenile fish passage at hydroelectric powerhouses. Permit 1034 is valid in 1997 only.

Notice was published on March 11, 1997 (62 FR 11158) that an application had been filed by USGS (P45Y) for a scientific research permit. Permit 1035 was issued to USGS on April 17, 1997. Permit 1035 authorizes USGS annual takes of juvenile, threatened, artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with two studies designed to monitor juvenile fish health and passage efficiency at Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake River. For Study 1, ESA-listed juvenile fish will be tagged with radio transmitters and tracked electronically to measure the vertical and horizontal distribution of juvenile salmonids exposed to high levels of total dissolved gas in an effort to assess the risk of mortality from gas bubble disease. For Study 2, ESA-listed juvenile fish will be tagged with radio transmitters and tracked electronically to measure fish passage success at Ice Harbor Dam. CZESD is authorized to act as an agent of USGS under the permit in the conduct of Study 2. Permit 1035 expires on December 31, 1999.

Notice was published on March 11, 1997 (62 FR 11158) that an application had been filed by USGS (P45X) for a scientific research permit. Permit 1036 was issued to USGS on April 17, 1997. Permit 1036 authorizes USGS annual

takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with a study designed to determine the post-release attributes and survival of hatchery and natural fall chinook salmon in the Snake River. The study consists of eight assessment tasks: (1) Life cycle, (2) redd counts, (3) food and growth, (4) habitat use, (5) predation, (6) temperature response, (7) migratory behavior, and (8) race and residualism. Permit 1036 expires on December 31, 2001.

Notice was published on January 17, 1997 (62 FR 2657) that an application had been filed by ICFWRU (P497D) for modification 1 to scientific research permit 994. Modification 1 to permit 994 was issued to ICFWRU on April 2, 1997. Permit 994 authorizes ICFWRU annual takes of adult, threatened, Snake River spring/summer and fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) 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 in the Pacific Northwest, to evaluate fish responses to specific flow and spill conditions, and to evaluate measures to improve fish passage. For modification 1, adult sockeye salmon will be included in the study, a percentage of which will be adult, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*). Modification 1 is valid for the duration of the permit. Permit 994 expires on December 31, 2000.

Issuance of the permits and the modification to a permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such actions: (1) Were requested/proposed in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the ESA-listed species that are the subject of the permits, and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed species permits.

Dated: May 9, 1997.

Nancy Chu,

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

[FR Doc. 97-12803 Filed 5-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050997C]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of modification 4 to permit 900 (P770#66), modification 3 to permit 946 (P770#68), and modification 2 to permit 914 (P770#67).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued modifications to three permits to the Coastal Zone and Estuarine Studies Division, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS at Seattle, WA (CZESD) that authorize takes of Endangered Species Act-listed species for the purpose of scientific research, subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

ADDRESSES: The applications 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

Environmental and Technical Services Division, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The modification to permits were issued 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 217-222).

Notice was published on February 28, 1997 (62 FR 9178) and March 7, 1997 (62 FR 10544) that an application had been filed by CZESD for modification 4 to scientific research permit 900 (P770#66). Modification 4 to permit 900 was issued to CZESD on April 18, 1997. Permit 900 authorizes CZESD annual direct and incidental takes of juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); and juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) associated with a study (Study 1) designed to determine survival estimates for the passage of juvenile salmonids through the dams and

reservoirs on the Snake and Columbia Rivers. For modification 4 to permit 900, CZESD is authorized to continue the take of ESA-listed species associated with Study 8, the Trestle Bay habitat restoration study, through December 31, 1997.

For modification 4, CZESD is authorized an additional annual take of ESA-listed juvenile salmon associated with a new study (Study 9) designed to determine the relative survival of juvenile salmon passing through the spillway of The Dalles Dam. Also for modification 4, CZESD is authorized an additional annual take of juvenile, threatened, artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a new study (Study 10) designed to: (1) Describe the vulnerability of juvenile salmonids to predation by northern squawfish and gulls below The Dalles Dam, (2) provide an estimate of juvenile salmonid migratory success below The Dalles Dam, and (3) compliment and enhance information obtained from Study 9. For Study 10, ESA-listed juvenile fish will be surgically implanted with radio transmitters, released at The Dalles Dam, and tracked electronically. Also for Study 10, ESA-listed juvenile fish will be sacrificed to measure physiological attributes related to stress and smoltification readiness. Oregon State University and the U.S. Geological Survey are authorized to act as agents of CZESD under permit 900 in the conduct of Study 10. The authorization for the takes of ESA-listed species associated with Studies 9 and 10 expires on December 31, 1999.

On April 23, 1997, NMFS issued modification 3 to CZESD's scientific research permit 946 (P770#68). Permit 946 authorizes CZESD annual direct and incidental takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); and juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) associated with two studies. Study 1 is designed to compare the survival to adulthood of spring/summer chinook salmon smolts transported by barge to below Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River with the survival to adulthood of smolts migrating volitionally under prevailing river conditions. Study 2 is designed to assess the migration timing and relative survival of transported and inriver juvenile chinook salmon migrating volitionally from Bonneville Dam to the mouth of the Columbia River. For modification 3 to permit 946,