

For permits 1138, 1139, 1161, 1162, 1166, and 1167: Thomas Hablett, Protected Resources Division, (707-575-6066).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Authority

Permits are requested 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).

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

Species Covered in this Notice

The following species are covered in this notice: Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

New Applications Received

Jennifer Nielsen (1138) requests a five-year permit to receive, possess, and analyze, genetic tissue samples taken from adult and juvenile salmonids, for all species currently listed in California. Tissue samples taken from live, non-invasively sampled fish, will consist only of fin clips and scales. These and/or skin tissue will be taken from carcasses. The samples will be collected in the field by participating investigators who have been authorized by NMFS to take and transfer tissue samples for genetic study purposes. The requested authorizations for California include samples from: threatened coho salmon in the southern Oregon/northern California coast (SONCC) and central California coast (CCC) Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs); endangered steelhead in the southern California coast (SoCC) ESU; threatened steelhead in the CCC, south-central California coast (SCCC), and central valley (CV) ESUs; and endangered Sacramento River, winter-run chinook salmon; associated with ongoing genetic population inventories throughout California.

WRAI (1139) requests a two-year permit for takes of juvenile, threatened, CCC coho salmon, and juvenile, threatened CCC steelhead associated with fish population and habitat studies in the Petaluma River within the ESUs. The studies consist of four assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are

proposed to be taken: 1) Presence/absence; 2) population estimates; 3) out-migrational surveys; and 4) habitat quality evaluation. ESA-listed fish will be observed or captured, anesthetized, handled, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. Indirect mortalities are also requested.

SWRCB (1161) requests a five-year permit for takes of juvenile, threatened, CCC coho salmon associated with fish population and habitat studies in the Noyo River within the ESU. The studies consist of four assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken: 1) Presence/absence; 2) population estimates; 3) life history patterns; and 4) habitat quality evaluation. ESA-listed fish will be observed or captured, anesthetized, handled, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. Indirect mortalities are also requested.

SPAWN (1162) requests a five-year permit for takes of juvenile, threatened, CCC coho salmon, and juvenile, threatened CCC steelhead (*O. mykiss*) associated with fish population and habitat studies in the San Geronimo Creek within the ESUs. The studies consist of two assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken: 1) Presence/absence; and 2) habitat quality evaluation. In addition, authorization is requested to move stranded fish from isolated pools into the mainstem of the watershed. ESA-listed fish will be observed or captured, anesthetized, handled, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. Indirect mortalities are also requested.

AARA (1166) requests a five-year permit for takes of: adult and juvenile, threatened, SONCC and CCC coho salmon; adult and juvenile, endangered, SoCC steelhead; and adult and juvenile, threatened, SCCC and CCC steelhead associated with fish population and habitat studies in coastal drainages throughout California. The studies consist of salmonid habitat and biological inventories, and project monitoring and evaluation studies for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken. ESA-listed fish will be captured, anesthetized, handled (identified and measured), allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. ESA-listed salmon indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested.

Peter Moyle (1167) requests a three-year permit for takes of juvenile, threatened, CCC coho salmon associated with fish population and habitat studies in the Navarro River and Indian Creek watersheds within the ESU. The studies involve surveying macroinvertebrate

and fish communities in selected stream reaches, and consist of three assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken: 1) Presence/absence; 2) population estimates; and 3) habitat quality evaluation. ESA-listed fish will be observed during snorkeling surveys.

Modification Request Received

IDFG requests a modification to permit 1010, which authorizes annual direct takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a captive rearing program for the upper Salmon River tributaries of West Fork Yankee Fork, upper East Fork, and Lemhi River in ID. The captive rearing program was initiated in 1995 when NMFS allowed the collection of ESA-listed, naturally produced, juvenile fish for the program under permit 972. For modification 2, IDFG proposes to release ESA-listed, captively-reared, mature fish from the program into their respective streams of origin for natural spawning. The ESA-listed adult fish to be released are proposed to be tagged with radiotransmitters so that IDFG may monitor fish movement and spawning-related behavior. Subsequent to spawning, carcasses of the ESA-listed fish are proposed to be inspected and sampled for tissues. Also for modification 2, IDFG proposes to retain ESA-listed adult fish in the hatcheries to initiate a captive spawning program. ESA-listed fish eggs produced from the captive spawning program are proposed to be distributed in their respective streams of origin. Also for modification 2, IDFG requests incidental takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish species that would result from fish releases from the captive rearing program. Modification 2 is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit. Permit 1010 expires on December 31, 2000.

Dated: July 8, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-18734 Filed 7-13-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070298F]

Marine Mammals; File No. 786-1463

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Daniel Costa, Department of Biology and Institute of marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, has applied in due form for a permit to take northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) and import samples from northern and southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before August 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application 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); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Shapiro or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant seeks authorization to continue a long-term study on a broad suite of behavioral, physiological, and life history characteristics of northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*). The ultimate goal of the proposed research is to understand the animal in its natural habitat, how it makes a living, and how it reproduces optimally.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42

U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: July 7, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-18735 Filed 7-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

[Docket No. 980317064-8064-01]

RIN 0692-ZA01

Announcement of Availability of Funding for Competitions—Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT)

AGENCY: Office of Technology Policy, Technology Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Technology Administration's Office of Technology Policy (OTP) announces the availability of funding for the following competition to be held in fiscal year 1998 under the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT). The EPSCoT will support technology-based economic growth in eligible jurisdictions by promoting partnerships between state and local governments, universities, community colleges, non-profit organizations and the private sector. This notice provides general information for the competition planned for fiscal year 1998.

DATES: Complete applications for the Fiscal Year 1998 EPSCoT grant program must be mailed or hand-carried to the address indicated below and received by the Technology Administration no later than 9:00 P.M. EST, August 25, 1998. Postmark date is not sufficient. Applications which have been provided to a delivery service will be accepted for review *if the applicant can document that the application was provided to the delivery service by August 24, 1998 with delivery to the address listed below guaranteed prior to the closing date and time.* Applications will not be accepted

via facsimile machine transmission or electronic mail.

ADDRESSES: US Dept. of Commerce, Technology Administration, attn: EPSCoT Director, Anita Balachandra, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, HCHB Room 4418, Washington, DC 20230.

Note: Due to Departmental security policies, hand carried packages must be delivered to Rm. 1874.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anita Balachandra, Director of the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology, Telephone: (202) 482-1320, Fax: (202) 219-8667, Email: epscot@ta.doc.gov

Information on the EPSCoT is also available at: <http://www.ta.doc.gov/epscot>

For fax and email inquiries, please include a name, mailing address, and phone number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

The statutory authority for the EPSCoT is the Federal Technology Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 3704(c)(11), (12) and § 3706)

Program Description

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT) will support technology-based economic growth in eligible jurisdictions by promoting partnerships between state and local governments, universities, community colleges, non-profit organizations and the private sector.¹ Through these partnerships, EPSCoT seeks to support local efforts to:

- Build state-wide institutional capacity to support technology commercialization
- Create the business climate that is conducive to technology development, deployment and diffusion
- Compete in Federal R&D programs

The EPSCoT parallels the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). While EPSCoR's primary emphasis is improving the competitive performance of major research universities of these jurisdictions, EPSCoT seeks to support state efforts to improve the commercial environment for R&D.

Funding Availability

In fiscal year 1998,

¹ Eligible jurisdictions are those that are eligible to participate in the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR): Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.