

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 Committees will meet to review and provide input on topics relevant to the Council's Ecosystems Pilot Project including, but not limited to, a review of the elements of the project including non-fishing marine resource uses; marine pollution and governance under an ecosystem approach. The committee will review the recent stakeholder workshops; provide advice for integrating, as necessary, ecosystems approaches with the current management structures and may consider other topics at their 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.

Dated: December 30, 2005.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E5-8311 Filed 1-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 123005A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Extension of scientific research permit 1376 - Modification 1.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received a request to extend the duration of a scientific research permit that currently allows Pacific salmon to be taken. The research is designed to increase knowledge of salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and help guide management and conservation efforts.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on February 6, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the application 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: 503-230-5435, e-mail: Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov). Permit application instructions are available at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

The following listed species (evolutionarily significant unit) is covered in this notice:

Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*): threatened naturally produced and artificially propagated Puget Sound (PS).

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 Parts 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 this extension request should set out the specific reasons why such a hearing would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). Hearings are held at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA.

Extension Request

Permit 1376 - Modification 1

Permit 1376 currently authorizes the Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (University of Washington, School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences) to take juvenile and

adult PS Chinook salmon in Lakes Washington and Sammamish, Washington. The purpose of the research is to understand food web interactions, identify sources of mortality, and determine the energetic requirements for sustaining fish and zooplankton communities in each lake. The study helps researchers identify and quantify factors limiting survival and growth of juvenile salmon and other species. The UW captures (using gillnets, trawls, hook-and-line, trot lines, minnow traps, beach seines, and backpack electrofishing equipment), anesthetizes, handles, measures, weighs, and releases juvenile PS Chinook salmon and examines their stomach contents. The permittee is asking NMFS to allow the research to continue until December 31, 2006. No other changes are proposed. Further information on the actions covered by this permit may be obtained from previous notices, from the biological opinion analyzing the effects of the research (2002/01919C - which is still in effect), and on the web at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/>.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the request, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the request meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decision 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: December 30, 2005.

Susan Pultz,

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

[FR Doc. E6-16 Filed 1-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122005B]

Endangered Species; File No. 1557

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Molly Lutcavage, Department of Biology, 177 A Spaulding Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824-2617, has applied in due form for a permit to take leatherback

(*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before February 6, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 427-2521; and

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978) 281-9328; fax (978) 281-9394.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education 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) 427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1557.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Opay or Kate Swails, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

The primary purpose of the proposed research would be to investigate leatherback sea turtle behavior and movements in near-shore waters off the northeastern United States and to identify their dispersal in relation to oceanographic conditions and fishing activities. The research would also help establish baseline health assessments, genetic identities, sex ratios, and stable isotope composition of leatherback sea turtle tissues and prey. Researchers propose to conduct research on up to 12 leatherback sea turtles annually. Researchers would use animals that

have been disentangled from fishing gear by the stranding network or they would capture the animals using a breakaway hoopnet. Turtles would be measured, weighed, photographed and video taped, flipper and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagged, blood sampled, cloacal swabbed, skin sampled, tagged with electronic instruments (e.g., satellite transmitters), and released. The research permit would be issued for 5 years.

Dated: December 30, 2005.

Shane Guan,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-17 Filed 1-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122705A]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 781-1824, 965-1821, 532-1822, 540-1811, 774-1714, 782-1719, 731-1774

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of applications and amendment requests; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the following seven entities have applied in due form for permits and permit amendments to conduct scientific research on marine mammal species and import marine mammal part specimens for scientific research purposes:

Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC, Dr. Linda Jones, Principle Investigator), 2725 Montlake Blvd., East, Seattle, Washington 98112-2097 (File No. 781-1824);

Dr. David E. Bain, Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington, 620 University Road, Friday Harbor, Washington 98250 (File No. 965-1821);

Center for Whale Research (CWR, Mr. Kenneth C. Balcomb III, Principle Investigator), 355 Smuggler's Cove Road, Friday Harbor, Washington 98250 (File No. 532-1822);

Mr. John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research, Waterstreet Bldg., 218 1/2 W. 4th Avenue, Olympia, Washington 98501 (File No. 540-1811);

Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC, Dr. Stephen B. Reilly, Principle Investigator), 8604 La Jolla

Shores Drive, La Jolla, California 92037 (Permit No. 774-1714);

National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, (NMML, Dr. John L. Bengtson, Principle Investigator), 7600 Sand Point Way, NE., Seattle, Washington 98115-6349 (Permit No. 782-1719); and

Dr. Robin W. Baird, Cascadia Research, Waterstreet Bldg., 218 1/2 W. 4th Avenue, Olympia, Washington 98501 (Permit No. 731-1774).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before February 6, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request, online at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/review.htm>, or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 427-2521;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426;

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018; and

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education 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) 427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: either File No. 781-1824, or 965-1821, or 532-1822, or 540-1811, or Permit Nos. 774-1714, or 782-1719, or 731-1774.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shane Guan or Kelsey Abbott, (301) 713-2289.