

to deliver a report to Congress on the implementation of a national fishing vessel registration and information management system.

NMFS, the U.S. Coast Guard, coastal states, the three regional commissions (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission), and the eight regional Fishery Management Councils (New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Pacific, North Pacific, and Western Pacific) play various roles in commercial fishing vessel registration and marine fisheries data collection. Consistent with previous directions from the Assistant Administrator of NMFS, NMFS has been engaged in collaborative processes to develop joint regional data collection and planning activities with these organizations. Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act directs the Secretary to create a plan that will coordinate the techniques used to collect and disseminate data and to integrate these vessel registration and fisheries information systems on a national basis. This is to be accomplished while taking into account the unique characteristics of regional fisheries.

Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act sets a number of benchmarks for a national vessel registration and fisheries information system. It also defines several principles that should guide the system's development. These include the reduction of duplicative information reporting burdens on the fishing industry and the integration of existing data collection and information management systems to the furthest extent possible.

NMFS organized the implementation plan into two components: the Vessel Registration System and the Fisheries Information System (FIS). Within these components, the proposed System addresses information management architecture, integration and harmonization of data collection programs, and the institutional arrangements and accountability issues.

Vessel Registration System

Vessel registration, licensing, and permitting systems among the coastal states, territories, tribal entities and the U.S. Coast Guard have been reviewed. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requests a plan for a national system that contains the following information for each fishing vessel: (1) The name and official number or other identification, together with the address of the owner or operator or both; (2) gross tonnage,

vessel capacity, type and quantity of fishing gear, mode of operation, and other such pertinent information with respect to vessel characteristics as the Secretary may require; and (3) identification of the fisheries in which the fishing vessel participates. Currently, no vessel registration system at any level fully satisfies these criteria.

Fisheries Information System

State and Federal data collection programs and information management systems have developed over time to meet specific regional needs and reflect varying degrees of integration and management efficiency. These efforts, often state-Federal partnerships, have definite time frames and outcomes. NMFS has relied on these processes to support development of the section 401 FIS.

Process

The creation of the proposed system has targeted the highest level of detail possible in the draft report to produce specific and justifiable estimates of implementation steps and resource requirements. NMFS has consulted many major stakeholders, and has gathered input through a series of presentations and meetings with stakeholders, using a "discussion draft" paper to highlight critical issues and options. These stakeholders included internal NMFS organizational units as well as external entities. NMFS has, to the extent possible, reconciled the comments of the various stakeholders in the draft implementation plan.

Authority: Pub. L. 104-297.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

William W. Fox, Jr.,

*Director, Office of Science and Technology,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Sea Grant Review Panel; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Sea Grant Review Panel. The meeting will have several purposes. Panel members will

discuss and provide advice on the National Sea Grant College Program in the areas of program management and evaluation, national strategic investments, education and extension, technology problems, legislative changes and other matters as described below.

DATES: The announced meeting is scheduled during two days: Wednesday, July 8, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, July 9, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring Metro Center III; 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11836; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald C. Baird, Director; National Sea Grant College Program; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11716; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; 301 713-2448 extension 163.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Panel, which consists of a balanced representation from academia, industry, state government and citizens groups, was established in 1976 by Section 209 of the Sea Grant Improvement Act (Pub. L. 94-461, 33 U.S.C. 1128) and advises the Secretary of Commerce, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, also the Administrator of NOAA, and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program with respect to operations under the act, and such other matters as the Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advice. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, July 8, 1998

8:30 a.m.—Welcoming and Opening Formalities
9:00 a.m.—NOAA and National Sea Grant Office Update
10:30 a.m.—Sea Grant Association Update
12:00 p.m.—Working Lunch
1:30 p.m.—Program Evaluation
3:45 p.m.—Historically Black Colleges and Universities Evaluation Report
4:15 p.m.—Recognition Ceremony for Outgoing Review Panel Members
5:00 p.m.—Adjourn

Thursday, July 9, 1998

8:30 a.m.—National Strategic Initiatives Discussion
10:30 a.m.—Technology Update
11:30 a.m.—30th Anniversary Committee Update
11:45 a.m.—Working Lunch
1:30 p.m.—Sea Grant Review Panel Liaison Reports
2:00 p.m.—Sea Grant Review Panel Comments

2:30 p.m.—Summarization and Action Items

3:00 p.m.—Adjourn

This meeting will be open to the public.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

[FR Doc. 98-16985 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 062298A]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a scientific research permit (1160).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Vancouver, WA (WDFW) has applied in due form for a permit that would authorize takes of an ESA-listed anadromous fish species for the purpose of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application must be received on or before July 27, 1998.

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

Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400); and

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to the Chief, PRD, in Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Koch, PRD (503-230-5424).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: WDFW requests a permit under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

WDFW requests a 5-year permit (1160) that would authorize annual takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, lower Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) associated with scientific research designed to monitor

steelhead genetic and biological parameters in the Wind River Basin in WA. The monitoring effort is an integral part of the Wind River Watershed Project, a federally funded watershed recovery program intended to rebuild depressed populations of Wind River summer steelhead. The scientific research is essential to contain risks associated with conservation actions proposed in the Wind River and to detect both desired and unintended consequences. ESA-listed adult fish are proposed to be observed/harassed during redd counts and snorkel surveys. ESA-listed adult fish are also proposed to be captured, handled (examined, sampled for tissues and/or scales, and/or marked/tagged), and released. ESA-listed juvenile fish are proposed to be observed during snorkel surveys or captured, handled (examined, sampled for tissues and/or scales, and/or marked/tagged), and released. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities associated with the scientific research activities are also requested.

To date, protective regulations for threatened lower Columbia River steelhead under section 4(d) of the ESA have not been promulgated by NMFS. This notice of receipt of an application requesting takes of this species is issued as a precaution in the event that NMFS issues protective regulations that prohibit takes of lower Columbia River steelhead. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on the application, including its proposed takes of lower Columbia River steelhead, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations. Those individuals requesting a hearing on this application 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 above application summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,

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

[FR Doc. 98-17130 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Availability of Invention for Licensing; Government Owned Invention

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Navy and are available for licensing by the Department of the Navy.

Patent Application entitled "Force Discrimination Assay," filed January 20, 1998, Navy Case No. 78183.

Patent Application entitled "Apparatus and Method for Measuring Intermolecular Interactions By Atomic Force Microscopy," filed May 8, 1998, Navy Case No. 78838.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the patent applications cited should be directed to the Office of Naval Research, ONR 00CC, Ballston Tower One, 800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22217-5660, and must include the Navy Case numbers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. R. J. Erickson, Staff Patent Attorney, Office of Naval Research, ONR 00CC, Ballston Tower One, 800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22217-5660, telephone (703) 696-4001.

(Authority: 35 U.S.C. 207, 37 CFR Part 404)

Matthew G. Shirley,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-17018 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Closed Meeting of the Naval Research Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Naval Research Advisory Committee Panel on Information Technology Interoperability will meet to assess technologies and interoperability implications associated with information transfer and interaction among systems as well as between systems, especially among and between NATO and coalition forces. All sessions of this meeting will be closed to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 1998 from 8:00 a.m. to