

any person is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). However, nonconfidential versions of the comments will be made available to the applicant if necessary for determining whether or not to issue the certificate. Comments should refer to this application as "Export Trade Certificate of Review, application number 84-9A012." Northwest Fruit Exporters' ("NFE") original Certificate was issued on June 11, 1984 (49 FR 24581, June 14, 1984) and previously amended on May 2, 1988 (53 FR 16303, May 6, 1988); September 21, 1988 (53 FR 37628, September 27, 1988); September 20, 1989 (54 FR 39454, September 26, 1989); November 19, 1992 (57 FR 55510, November 25, 1992); August 16, 1994 (59 FR 43093); November 4, 1996 (61 FR 57850, November 8, 1996); and October 22, 1997 (62 FR 55783, October 28, 1997). A summary of the application for an amendment follows.

Summary of the Application

Applicant: Northwest Fruit Exporters ("NFE"), 105 South 18th Street, #227, Yakima, Washington 98901.

Contact: James R. Archer, Manager, Telephone: (509) 576-8004.

Application No.: 84-9A012.

Date Deemed Submitted: August 3, 1998.

Proposed Amendment: Northwest Fruit Exporters seeks to amend its Certificate to:

1. Add each of the following companies as a new "Member" of the Certificate within the meaning of section 325.2(1) of the Regulations (15 CFR 325.2(1)): E. Brown & Sons, Inc., Milton Freewater, Oregon; E.W. Brandt & Sons, Inc., Parker, Washington; Domex Marketing Co., Yakima, Washington; Dovex Export Company, Wenatchee, Washington; Henggeler Packing Co., Inc., Fruitland, Idaho; and Rainier Fruit Sales, Selah, Washington.

2. Delete the following companies as "Members" of the Certificate: Diamond Fruit Growers, Hood River, Oregon; Haas Fruit Co., Inc., Yakima, Washington; J.C. Watson Company, Parma, Idaho; Jenks Bros. Cold Storage, Inc., Royal City, Washington; Jones Orchards, Yakima, Washington; Naumes, Inc., Medford, Oregon; Oro Fruit Company, Oroville, Washington; Perham Fruit Corp., Wapato, Washington; Squaw Creek Ranch, Inc., Pateros, Washington; and The Apple House, Inc., Brewster, Washington.

3. Change the listing of the company name for each current "Member" cited in this paragraph to the new listing cited in this paragraph in parentheses as follows: Cascadian Fruit Shippers, Inc.

(Custom Fruit Packers); Cubberley Packing Co., Inc. (CPC International Apple Co.); and Barbee Orchards/Obert Cold Storage (Obert Cold Storage).

Dated: August 7, 1998.

Morton Schnabel,

Director Office of Export Trading Company Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98-21703 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 980212037-8142-02; I.D. 080498C]

RIN 0648-AJ87

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Prohibited Species Donation Program

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

ACTION: Notification of selection of an authorized distributor.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the selection of Northwest Food Strategies (NFS) as an authorized distributor for purposes of distributing Pacific halibut to economically disadvantaged individuals under the prohibited species donation (PSD) program. This action is necessary to comply with provisions of the PSD Program implemented at 50 CFR part 679.

DATES: Effective August 13, 1998 through December 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the PSD Permit may be obtained from the Sustainable Fisheries Division, NMFS, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-21668, Attn: Lori Gravel. Copies of Amendments 50 and 50 and the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR) prepared for the amendments may be obtained from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Suite 306, 605 West 4th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99510-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan Kinsolving, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS manages the domestic groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) according to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea

and Aleutian Islands Area and the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council prepared the FMPs under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing the Alaska groundfish fisheries appear at 50 CFR parts 600 and 679. Fishing for Pacific halibut in waters in and off Alaska is governed by the Convention between the United States and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea and by regulations adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission and approved by the Secretary of State of the United States pursuant to section 4 of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act (16 U.S.C. 773-773k).

NMFS approved Amendments 50/50 to the FMPs, authorizing the PSD program, on May 6, 1998, and published a final rule implementing the amendments in the **Federal Register** on June 12, 1998 (63 FR 32144). A full description of, and background information on, the PSD program may be found in the preamble to the proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on March 4, 1998 (63 FR 10583) and in the EA/RIR prepared for that action.

The regulations implementing Amendments 50/50 expand the existing Salmon Donation Program by creating a PSD program that includes Pacific halibut as well as salmon. The regulations authorize the voluntary distribution of Pacific halibut, taken incidentally in groundfish trawl fisheries off Alaska and landed at shoreside processing plants, to economically disadvantaged individuals by tax-exempt organizations through an authorized distributor. The Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) may select one or more tax-exempt organizations to be authorized distributors, as defined by 50 CFR 679.2, based on the information submitted by applicants under § 679.26. After review of qualified applicants, NMFS must announce the selection of the authorized distributor(s) in the **Federal Register**, and issue the selected distributor(s) PSD permits. The regulations implementing the donation of halibut under the PSD program are applicable only through December 31, 2000. Thus, any PSD permits issued for halibut will expire on that date.

On July 16, 1998, the Regional Administrator received an application to be an authorized distributor of Pacific halibut from NFS, 600 Erickson Avenue, Suite 395, Bainbridge Island, WA, 98110. The Regional Administrator

reviewed the application and determined that it provided the required information and that NFS met the requirements for an authorized distributor. As required by § 679.26(b)(2), the Regional Administrator based his selection on the following criteria:

1. *The number and qualifications of applicants for PSD permits.* As of the date of this notice, only the application from NFS has been received. NFS has been coordinating the distribution of prohibited salmon bycatch since 1993 under experimental fishing permits and the Salmon Donation Program. NFS employs an independent seafood laboratory to ensure product quality and has received support from cold storage facilities and common carriers servicing the areas where Pacific halibut donation would take place.

2. *The number of harvesters and the quantity of halibut that applicants can effectively administer.* The donation of halibut is limited to halibut taken by trawl catcher vessels and landed at shoreside processing facilities. NFS has obtained statements of support from three shoreside processors located in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. According to its application, NFS has the capacity to receive and distribute halibut from as many as 40 processors and their associated catcher vessels.

3. *The anticipated level of halibut bycatch.* Total halibut bycatch mortality in the Alaska groundfish fisheries was estimated to be 6,757 metric tons (mt) during 1996. Much of this bycatch is discarded at-sea. NMFS estimates that no more than 25 mt of Pacific halibut will be landed at participating shoreside processing plants.

4. *The potential number of vessels and processors participating in the groundfish trawl fisheries.* During 1996, 56 shoreside processors and 213 trawl catcher vessels participated the groundfish trawl fisheries.

This PSD permit is in effect through December 31, 2000 unless suspended or revoked. It may not be transferred.

This permit may be suspended, modified, or revoked under 15 CFR part 904 for noncompliance with terms and conditions specified in the permit or for a violation of this section or other regulations in 50 CFR part 679.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 679.26.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, 1801 *et seq.*, and 3631 *et seq.*

Dated: August 6, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-21765 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080698E]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of scientific research permits (1068, 1118, 1142, 1143, 1147) and modifications to scientific research permits (844, 964, 998, 1057, 1114, 1115)

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement: NMFS has issued permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein, to: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)(1068 and 1118), the Fish Ecology Division of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS at Seattle, WA (NWFSC)(1142), Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)(1143), and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission at Portland, OR (CRITFC)(1147); and NMFS has issued modifications to scientific research permits to: the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at Boise, ID (IDFG)(844), NWFSC (964), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes at Fort Hall, ID (SBT)(998), the U.S. Forest Service at Tiller, OR (USFS)(1057), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)(1114), and the Chelan County Public Utility District No. 1 (PUDCC)(1115).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the applications must be received on or before September 14, 1998.

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

For permits 844, 964, 998, 1057, 1114, 1115, 1118, 1142, 1143, and 1147: Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/ NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

For permit 1068: Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue,

Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528 (707-575-6066).

All documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permit 844, 964, 998, and 1147: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (503-230-5424).

For permits 1057, 1114, 1115, 1118, 1142, and 1143: Tom Lichatowich, Portland, OR (503-230-5438).

For permit 1068: Thomas Hablett, Protected Resources Division, (707-575-6066).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of these permits, modifications, and amendments, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permits, modifications, and amendments: (1) Were applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. These permits, modifications, and amendments were also issued in accordance with and are subject to parts 217-222 of Title 50 CFR, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

Species Covered in this Notice

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

Permits and Modifications Issued

Notice was published on June 24, 1998 (63 FR 34366), that an application had been filed by IDFG for modification 6 to incidental take permit 844. Modification 6 to permit 844 was issued to IDFG on July 31, 1998. Permit 844 authorizes IDFG an annual incidental take of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon and adult, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon associated with the State of Idaho's sport-fishing programs. For modification 6, IDFG is authorized an increase in the incidental take of adult, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a salmon sport fishery on the upper South Fork of the Salmon River. The fishery will target non-listed adult, adipose fin-clipped, artificially propagated, summer chinook salmon. The fishery will be terminated when quotas are achieved,