

Permit 1155 was issued on July 21, 1998, and expires on July 31, 2003.

Dated: September 9, 1998.

Kevin Collins,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090498B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of scientific research permits (1141, 1148, 1152) and modifications to scientific research permits (900, 946, 948, 994).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued permits to: Public Utility District No 2 of Grant County at Ephrata, WA (PUDGC) (1141), the Resource Enhancement and Utilization Technologies Division of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS at Seattle, WA (NWFSC) (1148), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at La Grande, OR (ODFW) (1152); and has issued modifications to permits to: Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS at Seattle, WA (NWFSC) (900 and 946), the Northern Wasco County People's Utility District at The Dalles, OR (NWCPUD) (948), and the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Moscow, ID (ICFWRU) (994).

ADDRESSES: The permits, applications and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment: Protected Resources Division, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permit 1141: Tom Lichatowich (503-230-5438).

For permits 900, 946, 948, 994, 1148, and 1152: Robert Koch (503-230-5424).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Permits are 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 217-227).

Issuance of the permits and permit modifications, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such actions: (1) Were requested/proposed in good faith, (2) would 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.

Species Covered in this Notice

The following species are covered in this notice: Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), Steelhead (*O. mykiss*).

Permits Issued

Notice was published on April 16, 1998 (63 FR 73), that an application had been filed by PUDGC for a 5-year research permit. Permit 1141 was issued on August 21, 1998, and authorizes takes of endangered, juvenile, upper Columbia River (UCR) steelhead in three research activities. In the first, one-third of the smolts netted at Wanapum Dam would be anesthetized, counted, examined for marks, and lengths taken on a representative 5% sample before the fish would be allowed to recover in a holding tank until release. In the second activity, 50-100 smolts are examined twice per week for gas bubble trauma. The third study involves a lethal take of ESA-listed steelhead smolts captured during weekly fyke-netting efforts at Wanapum Dam from mid-July through August as part of a hydro acoustics study. Permit 1141 expires on December 31, 2002.

Notice was published on May 15, 1998 (63 FR 27055), that an application had been filed by NWFSC for a scientific research/enhancement permit. Permit 1148 was issued to NWFSC on September 2, 1998. Permit 1148 authorizes NWFSC annual direct takes of adult and juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon associated with its role in a captive broodstock program. The captive broodstock program is a cooperative effort among the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), NMFS, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the University of Idaho, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Funding is provided by BPA. IDFG is authorized annual takes of ESA-listed sockeye salmon under scientific research/enhancement Permit 1120. Permit 1148 expires on December 31, 2002.

Notice was published on May 29, 1998 (63 FR 29382), that an application had been filed by ODFW for a scientific research permit. Permit 1152 was issued to ODFW on August 26, 1998. Permit 1152 authorizes ODFW annual direct takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with scientific research conducted in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha River Basins in the state of OR. ODFW will conduct five research tasks: (1) Spring chinook salmon spawning ground surveys, (2) spring chinook salmon early life history, (3) habitat and fish inventory surveys, (4) passage and irrigation screening, and (5) monitoring of residual hatchery steelhead. Permit 1152 expires on December 31, 2002.

Permits Modifications Issued

Notice was published on May 29, 1998 (63 FR 29382) that an application had been filed by NWFSC for modification 6 to scientific research permit 900. Modification 6 to permit 900 was issued to NWFSC on September 4, 1998. Permit 900 authorizes NWFSC annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon; juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon; juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon; and juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead associated with three studies designed to determine the relative survival of migrating juvenile salmonids at hydropower dams and reservoirs on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in the Pacific Northwest. For modification 6, NWFSC is authorized an increase in the annual takes of ESA-listed juvenile fish associated with The Dalles Dam survival study. Actual field conditions to date in 1998 indicate that NWFSC underestimated the amount of ESA-listed fish takes needed to validate the study. Modification 6 is valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on December 31, 1999.

Notice was published on May 29, 1998 (63 FR 29382) that an application had been filed by NWFSC for modification 5 to scientific research permit 946. Modification 5 to permit 946 was issued to NWFSC on September 4, 1998. Permit 946 authorizes NWFSC annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon; juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon; juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon; and juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and

artificially propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead associated with two scientific research studies. The studies are designed to assess the migration timing and relative survival of chinook salmon smolts transported by barge to below Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River with the survival to adulthood of smolts migrating volitionally inriver to Bonneville Dam and to the mouth of the Columbia River. For modification 5, NWFSC is authorized an increase in the takes of ESA-listed juvenile fish associated with both studies. Actual field conditions to date in 1998 indicate that NWFSC underestimated the amount of ESA-listed fish takes needed to complete the studies. Modification 5 is valid for the duration of the permit which expires on December 31, 1999.

Notice was published on March 6, 1998 (63 FR 11220) that an application had been filed by NWCPUD for modification 2 to scientific research permit 948. Modification 2 to permit 948 was issued to NWCPUD on September 2, 1998, and authorizes annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon; juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon; and juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon associated with a study designed to assess run-of-the-river juvenile anadromous fish condition after passage through the screened turbine intake channel at The Dalles Dam, located on the Columbia River. For modification 2, NWCPUD is authorized an annual direct take of juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, UCR steelhead associated with the research. Modification 2 is valid for the duration of the permit. Permit 948 expires on September 30, 1999.

Notice was published on May 29, 1998 (63 FR 29382) that an application had been filed by ICFWRU for modification 4 to scientific research permit 994. Modification 4 to permit 994 was issued to ICFWRU on September 2, 1998, and authorizes annual direct takes of adult, threatened, Snake River spring/summer and fall chinook salmon and adult, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon associated with two studies. Study 1 is designed to assess the passage success of migrating adult salmonids at the four dams and reservoirs in the lower Columbia River. Study 2 is designed to determine if adult salmon successfully return to natal streams or hatcheries after passing Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River. For modification 4, ICFWRU is authorized an annual direct take of adult, endangered, UCR steelhead

associated with a new study designed to determine the effects of transporting steelhead smolts on the homing of returning adults. Modification 4 is valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on December 31, 2000.

Dated: September 9, 1998.

Kevin Collins,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082898B]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 594-1467, 914-1470 and 772#69

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications and request to amend Permit No. 1024.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that two applicants have applied in due form for a permit to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research, and a permit holder has requested an amendment to Permit No. 1024. The applications are from:

(File No. 594-1467): Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Nongame/Endangered Wildlife Program Coastal Office, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520-8687;

(File No. 914-1470): University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Biological Sciences, USM Box 5018, Hattiesburg, MS 39401; and

(File No. 772#69): NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before October 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment. (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications 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 these particular requests 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: Ruth Johnson or Sara Shapiro 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permits are requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Georgia Department of Natural Resources (No. 594-1467) requests a permit to conduct aerial and vessel surveys on Northern right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) in areas within and adjacent to the Southeast U.S. (SEUS) calving area critical habitat. The objective of the research is to determine right whale distribution in the SEUS as well as to determine if the present placement of the SEUS calving areas critical habitat requires revision. Opportunistic Level B harassment will be conducted on Atlantic bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Atlantic spotted dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*), Pantropical spotted dolphin (*S. attenuata*) and humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

University of Southern Mississippi (No. 914-1470) requests authority to import samples taken from captive animals. Samples will include fluids (serum or plasma, tears, sputum, feces, colostrum or milk, and bronchiolavage), and tissue samples (lung, spleen, kidney, ovary, testes, liver, lymph nodes, brain, and skin). Samples will be from Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, Pacific bottlenose dolphins, beluga whales, and Pacific white-sided dolphins. The objectives are to: establish standard cetacean cell lines for viral isolation and viral diagnostic studies; and isolate viruses from cetacean tissues.

Southwest Fisheries Science Center (No. 772#69) requests amendment to Permit No. 1024 to capture 30 juvenile Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*) over the next 3 austral summers, and to take blubber biopsy