

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050799C]

Proposed Agency Information Collection; Certified Observer Contractors of the North Pacific

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

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, F/ AK01, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Sustainable Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802, telephone (907) 586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NMFS is requesting renewal of OMB approval of the information collection to support the Certified Observer Contractor Program. Information must be submitted by persons wishing to become certified observers or contractors who can then provide observer services to the groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands management areas. Certified contractors and observers must submit additional information as part of the on-going observer process.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents would comply with requirements set forth in 50 CFR part 679.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0318.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Contractor business.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 540.

Estimated Time Per Response: The response times for this proposed information collection are 60 hours per application to be certified as a contractor; 3 minutes to supply a certificate of insurance; 7 minutes to register for training, briefing, or debriefing; 2 minutes submit a notification of an observer's physical examination; 2 hours for an observer's actual physical examination; 7 minutes for observer assignment information; 7 minutes for weekly deployment/logistics reports; 15 minutes to provide copies of contracts; 2 hours to provide reports on observer harassment, observer safety concerns, or observer performance problems; 40 hours for appeals of suspension or decertification of a contractor; and 4 hours for appeals of suspension of decertification of an observer.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,106.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$38,904.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 5, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 99-12115 Filed 5-12-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050599C]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Salmon Technical Team (STT) will meet in a work session which is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 1999 and continue on Thursday, June 3, 1999 from approximately 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council office in Portland, OR.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Coon, Salmon Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to review and clarify the STT's internal administrative procedures, plan and begin work on an overfishing review assignment from the Council, review the problems encountered in the 1999 preseason salmon management process and make recommendations for improvements to the Council, assess STT work products and responsibilities with regard to meeting new requirements resulting from the Sustainable Fisheries Act and Amendment 14 to the salmon fishery management plan, and discuss other pertinent issues with regard to fulfilling STT technical and analytical responsibilities.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Team for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. John Rhoton at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 6, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-12116 Filed 5-12-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050699C]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications to modify permits (1094, 1144, 1136); issuance of permits (1122, 1173); and modifications to existing permits (899, 901, 902, 903, 998, 1141).

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 received applications for modifications to existing permits from: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in Olympia, WA (WDFW) (1094), Mr. Bruce D. Peery (BDP) (1144), and Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in Corvallis, OR (OCFWRU) (1136); NMFS has issued permits to Mr. Cary Osterhaus, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (1122), and Dr. Douglas DeHart, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) (1173); and NMFS has issued modifications to scientific research permits to: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at Portland, OR (ODFW) (899), WDFW (901, 902), Idaho Department of Fish and Game at Boise, ID (IDFG) (903), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes at Fort Hall, ID (SBT) (998), and Public Utility District Number 2 of Grant County in Ephrata, WA (PUD GC) (1141).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received on or before June 14, 1999.

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

For permits 899, 901, 902, 903, 998, 1094, 1122, 1136, 1141, 1173: Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

For permit 1144: Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-1401).

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 1144: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (301-713-1401).

For permits 998, 1094, 1136: Leslie Schaeffer, Portland, OR (503-230-5433).

For permits 899, 901, 902, 903: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (503-230-5424).

For permits 1122, 1141, 1173: Tom Lichatowich, Portland, OR (503-230-5438).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) Are 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. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

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

Species Covered in this Notice

The following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESU's) are covered in this notice:

Sea Turtles

Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

Fish

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Snake River (SnR) fall,

SnR spring/summer, upper Columbia River (UCR) spring.

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*): Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC).

Cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*): Umpqua River (UmR).

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*): SnR.

Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*): UCR.

Modification Requests Received

WDFW requests a modification to scientific research/enhancement permit 1094. Permit 1094 authorizes WDFW an annual take of adult and juvenile, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, UCR steelhead associated with a hatchery supplementation program in the mid- to upper Columbia River Basin. Incidental takes of ESA-listed species resulting from WDFW hatchery operations and hatchery produced fish releases are also authorized by the permit. WDFW believes the artificial propagation of ESA-listed steelhead will benefit the species by enhancing the population, which is not currently able to naturally replace itself. For the modification, WDFW requests an increase in the annual take of adult, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, UCR steelhead associated with scientific research designed to determine if hatchery fish survival is increased with the incorporation of wild brood stock at Wells Hatchery. Adult, endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated, UCR steelhead are proposed to be captured, examined for marks, and released. ESA-listed adult fish indirect mortalities are also requested. The modification is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on May 31, 2003.

BDP possesses a 1-year permit (1144) to sample for and collect green and loggerhead sea turtles in the Ft. Pierce Inlet for the purposes of stock assessment to characterize the sea turtles that utilize the southern Indian River Lagoon System, Florida. Captured turtles will be weighed, photographed, measured, tagged, and released. BDP is requesting an increase in the authorized take of green sea turtles from 75 to 100 animals. This increase in take is necessitated by the collection of more green turtles than expected during the previous permit period.

On April 26, 1999, notice was published (64 FR 20266) that NMFS had received a modification request for permit 1136. Permit 1136 authorizes OCFWRU annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, SnR sockeye