

Technology, Red Training Room, Chemistry Building, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on February 12, 2001, that the meeting of the Judges Panel will be closed pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409. The meeting, which involves examination of records and discussion of Award applicant data, may be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c)(4) of Title 5, United States Code, since the meeting is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

Dated: September 4, 2001.

Karen H. Brown,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 01-22857 Filed 9-11-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090501A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has submitted a Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP) pursuant to the protective regulations promulgated for Lower Columbia River (LCR) chum salmon under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The FMEP specifies the future management of inland fisheries potentially affecting the LCR chum salmon in the State of Oregon. This document serves to notify the public of the availability of the FMEP for review and comment before a final approval or disapproval is made by NMFS.

DATES: Written comments on the draft FMEP must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on October 12, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the draft FMEP should be addressed to Richard Turner, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Branch, 525 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 510, Portland, OR 97232 or faxed to 503-872-2737. The documents are also available on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/>. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Turner, Portland, OR at phone number 503-736-4737 or e-mail: rich.turner@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is relevant to the Lower Columbia River chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU).

Background

ODFW has submitted to NMFS an FMEP for inland recreational and commercial fisheries potentially affecting listed adults and juveniles of the LCR chum salmon ESU. These include all freshwater fisheries managed under the sole jurisdiction of the State of Oregon occurring within the boundaries of the LCR chum salmon ESU including the anadromous portions of the Lower Columbia River mainstem and tributaries, from the mouth upstream to Bonneville Dam. The objective of the fisheries is to harvest hatchery-origin salmon and steelhead, and other fish species in a manner that does not jeopardize the survival and recovery of the listed LCR chum salmon ESU. All Oregon tributaries to the Columbia River are closed to the retention of chum salmon but chum salmon may be handled during fisheries for steelhead, salmon and other species in these tributaries. Impact levels to the listed LCR chum salmon ESU are specified in the FMEP. Population risk assessments in the FMEP indicate the extinction risk for the listed ESU under the proposed fishery impact levels to be low. A variety of monitoring and evaluation tasks are specified in the FMEP to assess the abundance of LCR chum salmon, determine fishery effort, and angler compliance. ODFW will annually conduct a population status and a review of the fisheries within the provisions of the FMEP. ODFW will conduct, at a minimum of every 5 years, a comprehensive review to evaluate the effectiveness of the FMEP.

As specified in the July 10, 2000, ESA 4 (d) rule for salmon and steelhead (65 FR 42422), NMFS may approve an FMEP if it meets criteria set forth in § 223.203 (b)(4)(i)(A) through (I). Prior to final approval of an FMEP, NMFS must publish notification announcing its availability for public review and comment.

Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as he deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4 (d) rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. The rule further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the rule do not apply to activities associated with fishery harvest provided that an FMEP has been approved by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4 (d) rule.

Dated: September 6, 2001.

Phil Williams,

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

[FR Doc. 01-22932 Filed 9-11-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. No. 082301A]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Plan Preparation for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Salmon

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

ACTION: Notice; request for information.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (the Services) are developing a recovery plan for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Salmon. The Services are required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to develop plans for the conservation and survival of federally listed species, i.e., recovery plans.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Minton, NMFS, telephone 978-

281–9355; Anne Hecht, FWS 978–443–4325.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ESA specifies that recovery plans must include: (1) a description of management actions necessary to achieve the plan's goals for the conservation and survival of the species; (2) objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in the species being removed from the list; and (3) estimates of the time and costs required to achieve the plan's goal and achieve intermediate steps toward that goal.

The Services have developed an interim, draft schedule for the completion of the recovery plan. The interim schedule for plan development includes completion of technical draft recovery plan (December 2001); completion and distribution of draft recovery plan (May 2002); completion of final recovery plan (May 2003).

The NMFS hereby requests relevant information on the species and/or comments on the impacts to the species that should be addressed during plan development. Comments must be received within 60 days of the publication of this notice. Comments should be sent to:

National Marine Fisheries Service,
One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA
01930, Attn: Atlantic Salmon Recovery
Plan Coordinator.

Dated: September 5, 2001.

Ann D. Terbush,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 01–22930 Filed 9–11–01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082001B]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Repairs at the Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facility, Carpinteria, CA

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application and proposed authorization for a small take exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from Venoco, Inc. for an authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to repairs at the Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facility in Carpinteria, CA.

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to authorize Venoco to incidentally take, by harassment, small numbers of Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*) from November 1, 2001, through November 1, 2002.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than October 12, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to Donna Wieting, Chief, Marine Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225. A copy of the application, the Project Execution Plan, and Wildlife Protection Plan may be obtained by writing to this address or by telephoning one of the contacts listed here.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Simona P. Roberts, (301) 713–2322, ext. 106 or Christina Fahy, (562) 980–4023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sections 101 (a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made, the taking is limited to harassment, and notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization may be granted if NMFS finds, based on the best available scientific evidence, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the marine mammal species or stock(s). Where negligible impact is defined in regulation (50 CFR 216.103) as: “an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival”.

Summary of Request

On June 17, 2001, NMFS received an application from Venoco, Inc., the owner and operator of the Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facility in Carpinteria, CA, requesting an authorization for the harassment of small numbers of Pacific harbor seals incidental to repair of gas pipeline supports and pier pilings at Casitas Pier. A detailed description of the work proposed for 2001 is contained in the Project Execution Plan and application

which is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**).

Venoco plans to complete all repair activities in a 3-week period beginning in early November 2001. To account for potential weather and logistical delays and reduce further paperwork, the proposed IHA would be issued for a full 1-year period (November 2001–November 2002).

Description of Marine Mammals and Habitat Potentially Affected by the Activity

Harbor seals generally are non-migratory, with local movements associated with such factors as tides, weather, season, food availability, and reproduction (Scheffer and Slipp, 1944; Fisher, 1952; Bigg, 1969, 1981). They haul out on rocks, reefs, beaches, and drifting glacial ice, and feed in marine, estuarine, and occasionally fresh waters. Harbor seals have also displayed strong fidelity for haulout sites (Pitcher and Calkins, 1979; Pitcher and McAllister, 1981). The eastern Pacific harbor seal has an estimated population of 285,000 individuals distributed along the entire west coast of North America from the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands in Alaska to Baja California.

In Carpinteria, Pacific harbor seals haul out year round. This area is one of two along the mainland coast of southern California that is readily accessible to the public. The other haul out is in La Jolla, CA. There are four other sizable haul outs along the mainland coast of Santa Barbara County, one at Naples, one at Point Conception, and two at Vandenberg Air Force Base. However, unlike the Carpinteria haul out, these sites are on private land and not readily accessible to the public.

In Carpinteria, peak numbers are reached during the pupping season (late February through March) and molting season (summer months). The pups born at these sites are weaned in 4 to 6 weeks, so nearly all pups are independent by the end of May. 20 to 30 pups are usually born there each year (Howorth, 1995, 1998). A peak abundance count made during the 1998 pupping season was 345 seals (Howorth, 1998).

The project site is adjacent to a small beach used by harbor seals as a haul-out and rookery area. Harbor seals continue to use this area despite pier activity and human presence (Howorth, 1995, 1998). 265 feet (ft) (81 meters (m)) east of Casitas Pier, a small sandy beach and offshore rock area marks the western limits of the local harbor seal haul outs.

California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) do occasionally haul out on the beach or rocks adjacent to the