

no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on April 12, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and requests for copies of the draft EA should be addressed to Herb Pollard, Salmon Recovery Division, 10215 W. Emerald, Suite 180, Boise, ID 83704, or faxed to (208) 378-5699. Comments on this draft EA may be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is

*JCAPE.nwr@noaa.gov*. Include in the subject line the following document identifier: "JCAPE permit assessment". The documents are also available on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1susfsh/10permits/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Herb Pollard, Boise, ID, at phone number (208) 378-5614 or e-mail: *herbert.pollard@noaa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is relevant to the following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESUs):

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened Snake River spring/summer-run.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened Snake River Basin.

**Background**

NEPA requires Federal agencies to conduct an environmental analysis of their proposed actions to determine if the actions may affect the human environment. NMFS expects to take action on an ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) submittal received from the applicants. Therefore the Service is seeking public input on the scope of the required NEPA analysis, including the range of reasonable alternatives and associated impacts of any alternatives.

The Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) has submitted an application for a section 10(a)(1)(A) enhancement permit for operation of an artificial propagation program on Johnson Creek, ID. Notice of receipt of this permit application was published in the **Federal Register** on May 11, 2000 (65 FR 30391) and closed on June 12, 2000.

The primary goal of CRITFC's proposed hatchery supplementation program is to increase the abundance of the natural chinook salmon population in Johnson Creek and to avoid further losses of the genetic variation that may be necessary to recover the population. NMFS proposes to issue a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit for operation of the program to rear and release approximately 100,000 juveniles annually. The artificial propagation action would include collecting and spawning adult threatened Snake River

spring/summer chinook salmon, using the resulting progeny in scientific research, enhancing the propagation or survival of the listed population, and subsequently releasing juveniles that are the progeny of listed fish into the wild. The Nez Perce Tribe, acting under the permit requested by CRITFC, also proposes to install and operate a weir, a trap, and holding facilities for collection of listed Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon adults from Johnson Creek to enhance the propagation and conduct research on the listed species of salmon.

The general effects on the environment considered include the impacts on the physical, biological, and socioeconomic environments of the Snake River Basin, particularly in the Johnson Creek sub-basin.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

**Phil Williams,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-5697 Filed 3-11-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 030304F]

**Mid-Atlantic 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 Trawl Survey Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), and several independent scientific researchers, will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, April 16, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Radisson Airport Hotel Providence, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI; telephone: 401-739-3000.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Room 2115, Dover, DE 19904.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management

Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this meeting is to assist the NEFSC in developing effective and consistent trawl survey protocols and practices for the trawl surveys. The Committee will be describing what they envision the scientific sampling gear should do in terms of the sampling focus and performance. They will be making recommendations on the new gear fishing package for the new research vessel.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, 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 and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Mid-Atlantic Council office (*see ADDRESSES*) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 4, 2004.

**Peter H. Fricke,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-5698 Filed 3-11-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 030304E]

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee in March, 2004 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will

be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 26, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Inn Providence Airport, 1850 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 738-4000.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Scientific and Statistical Committee will address some issues relating to the Council's use of stock assessment advice and attempt to provide the Council with an understanding of why changes or differences in assessment advice may be very large as in the case of a recent Georges Bank yellowtail flounder assessment. Some other questions that the committee will consider are: (1) what kind of information should be collected and how should the Council direct funding and research to make stock assessments more reliable and robust; (2) how should the Council interpret and use virtual population analyses (VPAs), including weighting terminal year estimates of fishing mortality; (3) should other assessment models be used to compare VPA results; and (4) how should the Council handle retrospective patterns or errors in fishing mortality and biomass estimates?

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (*see ADDRESSES*) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: March 4, 2004.

**Peter H. Fricke,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-5699 Filed 3-11-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030404C]

#### Endangered Species; Permit No. 1231

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for modification.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Llewellyn M. Ehrhart, Department of Biology, University of Central Florida, 4000 Central Florida Blvd., Orlando, FL 32816-2368, has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1231.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before April 12, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The modification request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education 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 this particular modification request would be appropriate.

Comments may 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. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: Modification of Permit No. 1231.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patrick Opay, (301)713-1401 or Carrie Hubard, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject modification to Permit No. 1231, issued on June 9, 2000 (65 FR 36666) is

requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Permit No. 1231 authorizes the permit holder to take listed sea turtles inhabiting the Indian River Lagoon system, Indian River County; the nearshore Atlantic Sabellariid worm rock reef system, Indian River County; and the Trident submarine basin in Port Canaveral, Brevard County, Florida. The study is helping to gather information regarding habitat requirements, seasonal distribution and abundance, movement and growth, feeding preferences, sex ratios and the prevalence and severity of fibropapilloma. The permit holder requests authorization to expand the ongoing population assessment project by tracking the movements of juvenile green (*Chelonia mydas*) sea turtles. This modification will allow the permit holder to obtain additional information about this species' movement patterns and its utilization of habitat. The permit holder proposes to attach a transmitter and time-depth-temperature recorder to 14 of the green sea turtles that are already authorized to be captured under the existing permit. Turtles will be also be sampled, measured, weighed, and tagged before being released. This research will take place in the waters within the Indian River Lagoon on the east coast of Florida for the remaining duration of the permit which expires on March 31, 2005.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

*Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-5695 Filed 3-11-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030404G]

#### Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit

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

**ACTION:** Notice of the receipt of an exempted fishing permit (EFP)