

for publication of a Notice of Availability for public comment.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by the Council by 5 p.m. on May 7, 2004 (See **ADDRESSES**). A series of scoping meetings will be held in April 2004. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates, location and times.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the scope of the DSEIS should be sent to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; telephone: 843-571-4366 or toll free 1-866-SAFMC-10; FAX 843-769-4520; email: [mackerelcomments@safmc.net](mailto:mackerelcomments@safmc.net).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: 843-571-4366 or toll free 1-866-SAFMC-10; fax: 843-769-4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** King mackerel in the South Atlantic are managed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (Mackerel FMP). The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council cooperates with the South Atlantic Council in developing management measures in the Atlantic. The king mackerel fishery currently operates under a moratorium on the issuance of new commercial vessel permits. The moratorium on new king mackerel permits was established by Amendment 8 to the Mackerel FMP in March 1998 (63 FR 10561; March 4, 1998) and was extended with the implementation of Amendment 12 to the Mackerel FMP (65 FR 52955; August 31, 2000). It is scheduled to expire on October 15, 2005.

The Council intends to develop a DSEIS that describes and analyzes management alternatives to limit entry in the king mackerel fishery. Those alternatives include, but are not limited to the following: (1) A "no action" alternative that would allow the moratorium to expire; (2) an extension of the current moratorium for a designated time frame; or (3) The establishment of some form of license limitation system, including individual fishing quotas. If a license limitation system is chosen, the Council may also consider alternatives for different classes of licenses, initial qualification, initial allocations by license classes, transferability, and appeals regarding eligibility. Also included in the scoping document are alternatives for possible changes to the fishing year for Atlantic group king and Spanish mackerel.

In accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-6, Section

5.02(c), the Council has developed this preliminary range of alternatives as a means to initiate discussion for scoping purposes only. This may not represent the full range of alternatives that eventually will be evaluated by the Council. Copies of the scoping document will be available at the meetings and are available prior to the meetings from the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**).

#### Time and Location for Scoping Meetings

Mackerel scoping will be held at the following dates and locations. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM.

1. Tuesday, April 20, 2004, North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, 374 Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954; telephone: 252-473-3494;

2. Wednesday, April 21, 2004, Blockade Runner Beach Resort, 530 Causeway Drive, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480; telephone: 910-256-0125;

3. Thursday, April 22, 2004, Holiday Inn West on the Waterway, 101 Outlet Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579; telephone: 843-236-1000;

4. Monday, April 26, 2004, Hyatt Regency Savannah, Two West Bay Street, Savannah, GA 31401; telephone: 912-238-1234;

5. Tuesday, April 27, 2004, Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 1617 North First Street, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250; telephone: 904-249-9071;

6. Wednesday, April 28, 2004, Radisson Beach Resort, North Hutchinson Island, 2600 North A1A, Fort Pierce, FL 34949; telephone: 772-465-5544; and

7. Thursday, April 29, 2004, Holiday Inn Key Largo, 99701 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037; telephone: 305-451-2121.

In addition, the Mid-Atlantic Council will hold a scoping meeting during its May 4-6, 2004, meeting at the Crown Plaza Meadowlands, 2 Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, NJ 07094; telephone: 202-210-7231. The Mid-Atlantic Council will include the exact time of the scoping meeting in its **Federal Register** notice for the Council meeting.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by April 15, 2004.

Dated: April 6, 2004.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 04-8116 Filed 4-8-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 033104E]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 1009-1640

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Jerome Siegel, Neurobiology Research 151A3, 16111 Plummer St., VA GLAHS-Sepulveda, North Hills, CA 91343, has been issued a permit to import tissue samples from bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*), and Northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) from Russia, and to analyze tissue samples from captive killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and bottlenose dolphins in the U.S. for purposes of scientific research.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

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 Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Sloan or Sarah Wilkin, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 29, 2002, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 65956) that a request for a scientific research permit to take the species identified above had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), and the regulations governing the taking,

importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The permit authorizes importation and receipt of specimens in the U.S. from the above-named marine mammal species for purposes of sleep research on marine mammals. The permit is issued for five years duration.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an environmental assessment was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities. After a Finding of No Significant Impact, the determination was made that it was not necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement.

Dated: March 31, 2004.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032604A]

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

**ACTION:** Applications for two scientific research permits (1482, 1484) and three permit modifications (1156, 1341, 1345).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received two scientific research permit applications and three applications to modify existing permits relating to Pacific salmon and steelhead. All of the proposed research is intended to increase knowledge of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to help guide management and conservation efforts.

**DATES:** Comments or requests for a public hearing on the applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific daylight-saving time on May 10, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the applications or modification requests should be sent to Protected Resources Division, NMFS, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232–2737. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503–230–5435 or by e-mail to [resapps2.nwr@NOAA.gov](mailto:resapps2.nwr@NOAA.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Garth Griffin, Portland, OR (ph: 503–231–2005, Fax: 503–230–5435, e-mail: [Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov](mailto:Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov)). Permit application instructions are available at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Species Covered in This Notice

The following listed species and evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) are covered in this notice:

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*): endangered Snake River (SR).

Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*): endangered naturally-produced and artificially propagated upper Columbia River (UCR); threatened naturally-produced and artificially propagated SR spring/summer (spr/sum); threatened SR fall; threatened lower Columbia River (LCR); threatened naturally produced and artificially-propagated Puget Sound (PS); threatened upper Willamette River (UWR).

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): threatened Columbia River (CR); threatened Hood Canal summer (HC).

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened SR; threatened middle Columbia River (MCR); endangered UCR; threatened LCR; threatened UWR.

Coho Salmon (*O. kisutch*): threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC).

#### Authority

Scientific research permits are issued in accordance with Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR 222–226). NMFS issues permits/modifications based on findings that such permits and modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permit; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policy of section 2 of the ESA. The authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits.

Anyone 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 a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA.

#### Applications Received

##### Permit 1156 - Modification 2

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking to modify Permit 1156 to increase the number of SR steelhead, SR spr/sum chinook

salmon, SR fall chinook salmon, and PS chinook salmon they are currently allowed to take. They also want to be allowed to take adult and juvenile SR sockeye salmon and juvenile HC chum salmon. Under the current permit they are allowed to annually capture, handle, and release adult and juvenile, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated UCR spring chinook salmon; adult and juvenile, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated UCR steelhead; adult and juvenile LCR chinook salmon; adult and juvenile SR steelhead; adult and juvenile MCR steelhead; adult and juvenile LCR steelhead; juvenile, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated PS chinook salmon; adult and juvenile UWR steelhead; adult and juvenile UWR chinook salmon; adult and juvenile SR spr/sum chinook salmon; adult and juvenile SR fall chinook salmon; and adult and juvenile SONCC coho salmon. The research takes place in randomly selected river systems in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. The research was originally conducted under Permit 1156, which was in place for 5 years (63 FR 45799) with two modifications (65 FR 20954, 66 FR 56658, 67 FR 34909, 67 FR 39960, 67 FR 66129); it expired on December 31, 2002. A new 5-year permit was granted for the research in 2003, and the EPA is seeking to modify that permit to change the take allotment and add two cooperators. Nonetheless, the modification reflects a continuation of ongoing research. The research is designed to assess species status and trends in selected river systems. The EPA intends to continue conducting annual surveys for fish, macroinvertebrates, algae, and microbial assemblages as well as physical and chemical habitat conditions. The research will benefit listed fish by providing baseline information about water quality in the study areas and will also support enforcement of the Clean Water act in those river systems where listed fish are present. The EPA proposes to capture the fish (using backpack or raft electrofishing), sample them for biological information, and release them. The EPA does not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small percentage may die as an unintended result of the research activities. Dynamac Corporation, Washington Department of Energy, and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality will be cooperators in the research. The EPA requests that cooperators' biologists be authorized as agents of the EPA in conducting the research.