

stock would be taken based on the limited region of exposure in comparison with the known distribution of the transient stock. The West coast transient stock ranges from Southeast Alaska to California, while the proposed project activity would be stationary. A notable percentage of West coast transient whales have never been observed in Southeast Alaska. Only 155 West coast transient killer whales have been identified as occurring in Southeast Alaska according to Dahlheim and White (2010). The same study identified three pods of transients, equivalent to 19 animals that remained almost exclusively in the southern part of Southeast Alaska (*i.e.* Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait). This information indicates that only a small subset of the entire West coast Transient stock would be at risk for take in the Icy Passage area because a sizable portion of the stock has either not been observed in Southeast Alaska or consistently remains far south of Icy Passage.

The Northern resident killer whale stock are most commonly seen in the waters around the northern end of Vancouver Island, and in sheltered inlets along B.C.'s Central and North Coasts. They also range northward into Southeast Alaska in the winter months. Pile driving operations are not permitted under the IHA from December through February. It is also unlikely that such a large portion of Northern resident killer whales with ranges of this magnitude would be concentrated in and around Icy Passage.

There is no current abundance estimate for minke whale since population data on this species is dated. However, the proposed take of 42 minke whales may be considered small. A visual survey for cetaceans was conducted in the central-eastern Bering Sea in July–August 1999, and in the southeastern Bering Sea in 2000. Results of the surveys in 1999 and 2000 provide provisional abundance estimates of 810 and 1,003 minke whales in the central-eastern and southeastern Bering Sea, respectively (Moore *et al.*, 2002). Additionally, line-transect surveys were conducted in shelf and nearshore waters in 2001–2003 from the Kenai Fjords in the Gulf of Alaska to the central Aleutian Islands. Minke whale abundance was estimated to be 1,233 for this area (Zerbini *et al.*, 2006). However, these estimates cannot be used as an estimate of the entire Alaska stock of minke whales because only a portion of the stock's range was surveyed. (Allen and Anglis 2012). Clearly, 42 authorized takes should be considered a small number, as it constitutes only 5.2 percent of the smallest abundance

estimate generated during the surveys just described and each of these surveys represented only a portion of the minke whale range.

Note that the numbers of animals authorized to be taken for all species, with the exception of Northern resident and West coast transient killer whales, would be considered small relative to the relevant stocks or populations even if each estimated taking occurred to a new individual—an extremely unlikely scenario.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the likely effects of the specified activity on marine mammals and their habitat, and taking into consideration the implementation of the mitigation and monitoring measures, which are expected to reduce the number of marine mammals potentially affected by the proposed action, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the populations of the affected species or stocks.

Impact on Availability of Affected Species for Taking for Subsistence Uses

The proposed Gustavus Ferry Terminal improvements project will occur near but not overlap the subsistence area used by the villages of Hoonah and Angoon (Wolfe *et al.*, 2013). Harbor seals and Steller sea lions are available for subsistence harvest in this area (Wolfe *et al.*, 2013). There are no harvest quotas for other marine mammals found there. The project is likely to result only in short-term, temporary impacts to pinnipeds in the form of possible behavior changes, and is not expected to result in the serious injury or death of any marine mammal. Since all project activities will take place within the immediate vicinity of the Gustavus Ferry Terminal, the project will not have an adverse impact on the availability of marine mammals for subsistence use at locations farther away. No disturbance or displacement of harbor seals or sea lions from traditional hunting areas by activities associated with the project is expected.

Based on the description of the specified activity and the proposed mitigation and monitoring measures, NMFS has determined that there will not be an unmitigable adverse impact on subsistence uses from ADOT&PF's proposed activities.

National Environmental Policy Act

NMFS prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and analyzed the potential impacts to marine mammals that would result from the Gustavus Ferry Terminal construction project. A Finding of No Significant Impact

(FONSI) was signed on December 20, 2016. A copy of the EA and FONSI is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**).

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

There are two marine mammal species that are listed under the ESA with confirmed or possible occurrence in the study area. The Mexico DPS of humpback whale is listed as threatened and the western DPS of Steller sea lion is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The NMFS Alaska Regional Office Protected Resources Division issued a Biological Opinion under section 7 of the ESA, on the issuance of an IHA to ADOT&PF under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by the NMFS Permits and Conservation Division. The Biological Opinion concluded that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Mexico DPS humpback whales or western DPS Steller sea lions, and is not likely to destroy or adversely modify western DPS Steller sea lion critical habitat.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to ADOT&PF for reconstructing the existing Gustavus Ferry Terminal located in Gustavus, Alaska, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: April 4, 2017.

Donna S. Wieting,

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

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XF345

Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of meeting of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (AP).

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of its Law Enforcement AP in Charleston, SC. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Friday, May 19, 2017, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; phone: (800) 334-6660 or (843) 571-1000.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405; phone (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the AP will receive updates on amendments to fishery management plans currently under development by the Council and recently approved amendments, an update on the law enforcement component of an electronic reporting pilot program for charter vessels, discuss possible changes to Operator Permits to improve their utility, discuss enforcement of fishery closures, discuss retention of recreational bag limits when citations are issued, and address other topics relative to fisheries law enforcement as appropriate.

Members of the AP will discuss items and provide recommendations as appropriate.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Dated: April 5, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2017-07124 Filed 4-7-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF342

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of four ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) research/enhancement permits for take of threatened and endangered species.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that four direct take permits have been issued pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) for programs rearing and releasing spring Chinook salmon in the Methow River basin of Washington state (Columbia River basin). The permits are issued, for different aspects of the actions, to the Public Utility Districts of Grant, Chelan, and Douglas Counties, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Yakama Nation.

DATES: The permits were issued on February 17, 2017, and February 21, 2017, subject to certain conditions set forth therein. Subsequent to issuance, the necessary countersignatures by the applicants were received. The permits expire on December 31, 2027.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the decision documents or any of the other associated documents should be addressed to the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. #1100, Portland, OR 97232.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emi Kondo at (503) 736-4739 or by email at emi.kondo@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is relevant to the following species and evolutionarily significant unit (ESU)/distinct population segment (DPS):

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Endangered, naturally produced Upper Columbia River (UCR) spring-run.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Upper Columbia River.

Dated: April 4, 2017.

Angela Somma,

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

[FR Doc. 2017-07066 Filed 4-7-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Availability of Government-Owned Inventions; Available for Licensing

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are assigned to the United States Government, as represented by the Secretary of the Navy and are available for domestic and foreign licensing by the Department of the Navy.

The following patents are available for licensing: Patent No. 9,589,241 (Navy Case No. 100169): ELECTRICAL RESOURCE CONTROLLER//Patent No. 9,590,611 (Navy Case No. 103212):

RADIATION-HARDENED DUAL GATE SEMICONDUCTOR TRANSISTOR DEVICES CONTAINING VARIOUS IMPROVED STRUCTURES INCLUDING MOSFET GATE AND JFET GATE STRUCTURES AND RELATED METHODS//Patent No. 9,593,919 (Navy Case No. 102520): METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF A DESIRABLE MATERIAL OR CHEMICAL USING A PYROPHORIC SUBSTRATE//Patent No. 9,594,117 (Navy Case No. 103034): COMPACT ELECTRONICS TEST SYSTEM HAVING USER PROGRAMMABLE DEVICE INTERFACES AND ON-BOARD FUNCTIONS ADAPTED FOR USE IN PROXIMITY TO A RADIATION FIELD//Patent No. 9,594,000 (Navy Case No. 103027): VACUUM IMMERSION TEST SET//Patent No. 9,595,519 (Navy Case No. 200114): COMBINATION METAL OXIDE SEMI-CONDUCTOR FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTOR (MOSFET) AND JUNCTION FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTOR (JFET) OPERABLE FOR MODULATING CURRENT VOLTAGE RESPONSE OR MITIGATING ELECTROMAGNETIC OR RADIATION INTERFERENCE EFFECTS BY ALTERING CURRENT FLOW THROUGH THE MOSFETS SEMI-CONDUCTIVE CHANNEL REGION (SCR)//Patent No. 9,595,763 (Navy Case No. 200336): PROCESS FOR ASSEMBLING DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF MULTI-ELEMENT ASSEMBLIES TO PREDETERMINED TOLERANCES AND ALIGNMENTS USING A RECONFIGURABLE ASSEMBLING AND ALIGNMENT APPARATUS//Patent No. 9,599,441 (Navy Case No. 102250): OFF-BOARD INFLUENCE SYSTEM//Patent No. 9,599,970 (Navy Case No. 102500): SAFETY CRITICAL CONTROL SYSTEM