

research permits (P45K, P45L, and P45S).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the National Biological Service, U.S. Department of the Interior at Cook, WA (NBS) has applied in due form for modifications to permits to take endangered and threatened species for the purpose of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of these applications must be received on or before April 1, 1996.

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

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Environmental and Technical Services Division, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NBS requests modifications to permits under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

NBS (P45K) requests modification 5 to permit 817 for an increase in their annual take of ESA-listed species in association with three additional scientific research activities under Study 1, originally entitled "Identification of the spawning, rearing, and migratory requirements of fall chinook salmon in the Columbia River Basin." Permit 817 authorizes a direct take of juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and an indirect take of juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) for Study 1. NBS proposes to evaluate the extent, seasonality, and size selectivity of predation on subyearling fall chinook salmon; estimate food availability and growth of subyearling fall chinook salmon in nearshore rearing habitats for eventual use in a bioenergetics model; and relate juvenile fall chinook salmon survival to physiological development. A greater number of listed juvenile fish are proposed to be captured, handled, and released annually with a corresponding increase in indirect mortalities. Modification 5 would be valid for the duration of the permit.

Permit 817 expires on December 31, 1996.

NBS (P45L) requests modification 1 to permit 905 for a change in the dates and locations of an ongoing scientific research activity and an increase in their annual take of ESA-listed species in association with two additional scientific research activities. Permit 905 authorizes a direct take of juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon and an indirect take of juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a scientific study intended to assess the survival of wild and hatchery juvenile fall chinook salmon from rearing areas in the free-flowing Snake River through lower Snake River dams. NBS proposes to expand their annual collection season and extend their sampling locations to acquire the juvenile listed fish currently authorized to be taken for electrophoretic analysis. NBS also proposes to capture, handle, and release a greater number of listed juvenile fish annually to obtain non-lethal tissue samples from run-at-large juvenile spring chinook salmon and fall chinook salmon yearlings for genetic analysis and to relate juvenile fall chinook salmon survival to physiological development. Modification 1 would be valid for the duration of the permit. Permit 905 expires on December 31, 1996.

NBS (P45S) requests modification 1 to permit 956 for changes in scientific equipment application and sampling techniques and an increase in their annual take of ESA-listed species in association with two additional scientific research activities. Permit 956 authorizes a take of juvenile, threatened, artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a study designed to provide managers with data on the distribution, abundance, movement, and habitat preferences of the anadromous fish that migrate through Lower Granite Reservoir. NBS has been acquiring the data using radio transmitter tags applied by gastric insertion. NBS proposes to collect listed juvenile fish using a purse seine, apply the radio transmitter tags by surgical implantation, and transport the listed juvenile fish from the point of capture to an upstream release site. NBS also proposes to capture, handle, and release a greater number of listed juvenile fish annually to evaluate the operation of a surface collector prototype in the forebay of Lower Granite Dam and to use a mid-water trawl for species verification of hydroacoustic surveys. Modification 1 would be valid for the duration of the

permit. Permit 956 expires on September 30, 1999.

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

Dated: February 23, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### AFIT Subcommittee of the Air University Board of Visitors; Notice of Meeting

The Air Force Institute of Technology Subcommittee of the Air University Board of Visitors will hold an open meeting on 3-5 March 1996, with the first business session beginning at 0900 in the Commandant's Conference Room, Building 125, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio (5 seats available).

The purpose of the meeting is to give the board an opportunity to review Air Force Institute of Technology's educational programs and to present to the Commandant a report of their findings and recommendations concerning these programs.

Less than 15 days public notice for this Subcommittee is due to scheduling conflicts of high level members and the difficulty to reschedule.

For further information on this meeting, contact Ms. Beverly Houtz in the Directorate of Plans and Operations, Air Force Institute of Technology, (513) 255-5760.

Patsy J. Conner,

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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#### Air University Board of Visitors; Notice of Meeting

The Air University Board of Visitors will hold an opening meeting on 14-17 April 1996, with the first business session beginning at 0800 in the Air University Conference Room at