

Tuesday, September 1, 1998, from 7–10 p.m., at the Legislature Building in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.;

Wednesday, September 2, 1998, from 7–10 p.m., at the Conference Room of the Caravelle Hotel, in St. Croix, U.S.V.I.;

Thursday, September 3, 1998, from 7–10 p.m., at the Conference Room of the Holiday Inn Hotel in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (Holiday Inn Hotel address is 2701 Highway Number 2, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00680);

Tuesday, September 8, 1998, from 1–3 p.m., at the Casa Alcaldia of Fajardo, Fajardo, Puerto Rico; and

Tuesday, September 8, 1998, from 7–10 p.m., at the Travelodge Hotel in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico (Travelodge Hotel address is 1313 Isla Verde Avenue, Carolina, Puerto Rico).

NMFS is developing an EFH recommendation to the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The NMFS EFH recommendation to the Council involves a review of, and comments on, the Council's draft Generic EFH Amendment. The NMFS draft recommendation to the Council will be available for public distribution on August 31, 1998, and will be available at the Council's public hearings. Copies may be requested from the NMFS Habitat Conservation Division (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments on the NMFS draft EFH recommendation may be sent to the NMFS Habitat Conservation Division, Southeast Region (see **ADDRESSES**). A public hearing will be held on the draft NMFS EFH recommendation immediately following the Council's September 2, 1998, public hearing in St. Croix, U.S.V.I.

Special Accommodation

The hearings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. They are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon at the council at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Dated: August 21, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98–23015 Filed 8–24–98; 2:48 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081298B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research permits (1169, 1175) and a modification to a scientific research permit (990); Issuance of scientific research permits (1126, 1156) and a modification to a scientific research permit (1116)

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement: NMFS has received permit applications from: U.S. Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest at Sandy, OR (MHNH)(1169) and U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest at Vancouver, WA (GPNF)(1175); NMFS has received an application for a modification to an existing permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California State Office, Sacramento, CA (FWS)(990); NMFS has issued permits to: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Olympia, WA (WDFW)(1126) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (1156); and NMFS has issued a modification to a scientific research permit to Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (PUDDC)(1116).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the applications must be received on or before September 28, 1998.

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

For permit 990: Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404–6528 (707–575–6066).

For permits 1116, 1126, 1156, 1169, and 1175: Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232–4169 (503–230–5400).

All documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3226 (301–713–1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permit 990: Tom Hablett, Protected Resources Division, (707–575–6066).

For permit 1126: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (503–230–5424).

For permits 1116, 1156, 1169, and 1185: Tom Lichatowich, Portland, OR (503–230–5438).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Permits are requested 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 ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217–227).

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

Issuance of these permits and modifications, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permits, modifications: (1) Were applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. These permits and modifications, were also issued in accordance with and are subject to parts 217–222 of Title 50 CFR, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are covered in this notice: Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

To date, protective regulations for threatened lower Columbia River (LCR) steelhead under section 4(d) of the ESA have not been promulgated by NMFS. This notice of receipt of applications requesting takes of this species is issued as a precaution in the event that NMFS issues protective regulations that prohibit takes of threatened LCR steelhead. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on these applications, including their proposed takes of threatened LCR steelhead, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations.

New Applications Received

MHNH (1169) requests a 5-year permit for a direct take of adult and juvenile, threatened, LCR steelhead associated with four routine fish distribution and

monitoring research studies. The proposed studies will produce essential stock status data needed to manage programs for the recovery of listed fish. Study 1 is located in the Clackamas River and involves adult spawning surveys, juvenile trapping and tagging work as well as juvenile presence/absence surveys using snorkeling and electrofishing techniques. Study 2 is located in the Hood River Ranger District and involves snorkel distribution surveys as well as trapping and tagging juveniles. Study 3 is located in the Zig Zag Ranger District and involves adult spawning surveys, juvenile trapping, electrofishing, tagging and a lethal take of juveniles for genetic analysis. Study 4 involves presence/absence surveys in the Mt Hood National Forest. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested.

GPNF (1175) requests a 5-year permit for a direct take of juvenile, threatened, LCR steelhead associated with two research studies. The scientific research will provide necessary information to assess the impact of proposed land use activities on ESA-listed fish. The purpose of Study 1 is to conduct fish distribution, fish species presence/absence, and habitat quality surveys on streams across the forest. The purpose of Study 2 is to evaluate the biological benefits of fish habitat improvement projects. ESA-listed fish are proposed to be observed or captured (using seines or electrofishing), examined, and released. ESA-listed fish are also proposed to be relocated away from stream rehabilitation project areas in the course of conducting the research. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested.

Modification Request Received

FWS requests modification 1 to permit 990 for authorization to include takes of juvenile, endangered, Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon associated with fish population studies in Battle Creek, a tributary to the Sacramento River. The studies consist of four tasks for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken: (1) emergence/emigration size and timing; (2) production estimates; (3) collection of tissue samples for genetic analysis; and (4) investigation of potential limiting factors for survival. ESA-listed juvenile fish are proposed to be observed or captured, anesthetized, handled, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. ESA-listed juvenile salmon indirect mortalities are also requested. Modification 1 is requested to be valid for the duration of the

permit. Permit 990 expires on June 30, 2001.

Permits and Modifications Issued

Notice was published on June 10, 1998 (63 FR 31739), that an application had been filed by the PUDDC, for Modification 1 to permit 1116. Modification 1 was issued on August 11, 1998, and authorizes PUDDC an increase in the take of juvenile, endangered, upper Columbia River steelhead associated with a new study designed to inventory fish species in Wells reservoir on the Columbia River. ESA-listed fish will be observed by SCUBA divers or collected in beach seines, anesthetized, examined, allowed to recover, and released. Modification 1 is valid for the duration of the permit. Permit 1116 expires on December 31, 2002.

Notice was published on February 19, 1998 (63 FR 8435), that an application had been filed by WDFW for a scientific research permit. Permit 1126 was issued to WDFW on August 11, 1998, and authorizes WDFW an annual direct take of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon and juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon associated with scientific research conducted in the Snake River Basin in WA. The purpose of the research is to monitor and evaluate the success of hatchery supplementation programs in the region, as well as naturally produced fish populations, and to identify factors that are limiting ESA-listed fish productivity. In addition to non-lethal takes, an annual lethal take of ESA-listed juvenile fish is authorized for morphometric, meristic, pathologic, and electrophoretic studies. Permit 1126 expires on December 31, 2002.

Notice was published on June 19, 1998 (63 FR 33632), that an application had been filed by EPA for a 5-year research/enhancement permit. Permit 1156 was issued on August 14, 1998, and authorizes takes of juvenile, threatened, southern Oregon/northern California coast coho salmon; juvenile, threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon; and juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon associated with research designed to collect data in the Rogue and Snake Rivers. ESA-listed fish are proposed to be captured using electrofishing, examined, and released. The data will be used to enforce the Clean Water Act which will increase the recovery potential of listed species. Permit 1156 expires on December 31, 2002.

Dated: August 20, 1998.

Kevin Collins,

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

[FR Doc. 98-22949 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 980212036-8172-03]

Extension of Comment Period for Request for Comments on the Enhancement of the .us Domain Space

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On August 4, 1998, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) published a Notice and Request for Comments on the Enhancement of the .us Domain Space (Notice), 63 FR 41547 (1998). The Notice asked for public comments through September 3, 1998. As a result of numerous requests from the public, NTIA is extending for 30 days the period for filing public comments. The comment period for the Notice will now close on October 5, 1998.

DATES: Written comments are requested by October 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The Department invites the public to submit written comments in paper or electronic form. Comments may be mailed to Karen Rose, Office of International Affairs (OIA), National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Room 4701, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230. Paper submissions should include a version on diskette in ASCII, Word Perfect (please specify version), or Microsoft Word (please specify version) format. Comments submitted in electronic form may be sent to usdomain@ntia.doc.gov. Electronic comments should be submitted in the formats specified above.

Comments received will be posted on the NTIA website at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov>. Detailed information on electronic filing is available at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/efiling/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Rose, NTIA/OIA, (202) 482-0365.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 4, 1998, NTIA published "Requests for