

(OCCS) under section 4(d) of the ESA have not been promulgated by NMFS. This notice of receipt of an application requesting takes of this species is issued as a precaution in the event that NMFS issues protective regulations that prohibit takes of threatened OCCS. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on this application, including the proposed take of threatened OCCS, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations.

Application Received

BLM (1122) has submitted an amendment to an application for a 5-year permit that would authorize takes of juvenile, threatened, OCCS associated with scientific research. The notice of receipt for the original application, requesting authorization for annual direct takes of juvenile, endangered, Umpqua River cutthroat trout (URCT) associated with the research was published in the **Federal Register** on March 6, 1998 (63 FR 11220). The research is designed to determine migration patterns, life history strategies, and distribution/abundance of ESA-listed fish. The information will benefit wild populations by identifying important habitat areas for protection and restoration efforts. BLM proposes to use screw traps during the juvenile fish outmigration period of March through June to estimate abundance in selected sub-basins. ESA-listed juvenile fish are proposed to be captured, marked, released upstream of the trap, and recaptured to determine trap efficiencies. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities associated with the scientific research activities are also requested.

Modification Issued

On November 17, 1998, NMFS issued modification 2 to permit 984 to Dr. Mary Moser, authorizing the use of hatchery bred shortnose sturgeon to document predation on juvenile shortnose sturgeon by flathead and blue catfish, which are non-indigenous predators and are abundant in many rivers of the southeastern United States. The draft recovery plan for shortnose sturgeon identifies the importance of determining the effects of non-indigenous species on wild sturgeon populations. This information is particularly important due to the rapid proliferation of these introduced ictalurids in many river systems that support shortnose sturgeon. It is anticipated that all cultured shortnose sturgeon used in these experiments will be either eaten by catfish or euthanized at the end of the study. There will be no release of cultured shortnose sturgeon into the

wild under any circumstances. A portion of the dead fish will be donated to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and to the University of North Carolina-Wilmington teaching collection. Modification 2 is valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on December 31, 2000.

Dated: December 14, 1998.

Kevin Collins,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121498B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for an incidental take permit (1188).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at Boise, ID (IDFG) has applied in due form for a permit that would authorize incidental takes of endangered and threatened anadromous fish species.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received on or before January 20, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review, by appointment, at:

Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWO3, 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, PRD in Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Koch (503-230-5424).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: IDFG requests a permit 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).

IDFG requests a 5-year permit that would authorize annual incidental takes of endangered Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*); threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon

(*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); and threatened Snake River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) associated with IDFG's resident fish-stocking program. IDFG's fish-stocking program is designed to increase the supply of fish in the Salmon River and its tributary streams and lakes for sport-angling. The new permit is proposed to replace incidental take permit 908 which is due to expire on December 31, 1998. IDFG proposes to stock: (1) Catchable (mean total length up to 250 mm) hatchery rainbow trout in waters of the upper Salmon River and the Stanley Basin lakes, including Redfish Lake; (2) catchable or subcatchable cutthroat trout in the Stanley Basin lakes, including Redfish Lake; (3) subcatchable (5-20 cm) rainbow trout into the Salmon and Clearwater Rivers and the Stanley Basin lakes; and (4) westslope cutthroat trout into native areas of the Salmon River and tributaries for population restoration purposes. Rainbow and cutthroat trout stocking in Idaho may result in incidental takes of ESA-listed fish through predation, competition, transmission of diseases, and interbreeding. IDFG included a conservation plan with the application that specifies procedures to be implemented to monitor, minimize, and mitigate ESA-listed fish takes.

On May 30, 1997, NMFS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 29330) proposing to amend permit 908. On June 10, 1998, NMFS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 31739) that an application was received from IDFG for modification 2 to permit 908. To date, NMFS has not completed these proposed actions. When permit 908 expires on December 31, 1998, the two proposed actions cited above will no longer be considered valid for processing. However, the proposed actions are included in IDFG's application for a new permit.

To date, protective regulations for threatened Snake River steelhead under section 4(d) of the ESA have not been promulgated by NMFS. This notice of receipt of an application requesting takes of this species is issued as a precaution in the event that NMFS issues protective regulations that prohibit takes of Snake River steelhead. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on the application, including its proposed takes of Snake River steelhead, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations. Those individuals requesting a hearing on the above application 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 above application summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: December 14, 1998.

Kevin Collins,

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

[FR Doc. 98-33728 Filed 12-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120998A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 633-1483

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Center for Coastal Studies, P.O. Box 1036, Provincetown, MA 02657, has applied in due form for a permit to take right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before January 20, 1999.

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

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (978/281-9250).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation 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 request would be appropriate.

Comments may also 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. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Shapiro or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

The applicant seeks authorization to: (1) conduct behavioral observations of, and photo-identify Northern right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) during aerial and vessel surveys; (2) place VHF tags on right whales during the course of vessel surveys; (3) collect skin and blubber biopsy samples and sloughed skin; and (4) export skin samples for genetic analysis.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: December 15, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-33726 Filed 12-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121098C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 924-1484)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Marsha L. Green, Ph.D., Department of

Psychology, Albright College, P.O. Box 15234, Reading, PA 19612-5234, has applied in due form for a permit to take North Pacific humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before January 20, 1999.

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

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001); and

Protected Species Program Manager, Pacific Islands Area Office, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 9682-2396 (808/973-2987).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, 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 application would be appropriate.

Comments may also 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. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak or Trevor Spradlin, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested 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), 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 fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222.23).

The purpose of the proposed research is to evaluate the behavior of whales in the presence of vessels. The research goals are to more precisely delineate which vessel parameters and approach techniques cause changes in humpback whale behavior and to more clearly define the interactive effect of size of vessel and engine loudness. Humpback whales may be harassed during controlled vessel approaches and surface and underwater observations and recordings of whale behavior and