

regulations (40 CFR 1506.6), advises the public that the DEIS and proposed HCPs are now available for review and comment. After considering any comments received pursuant to this notice, NMFS will prepare a final EIS and make a final determination regarding the sufficiency of the applications in accordance with the requirements of 50 CFR 222.307. If deemed sufficient, NMFS thereafter will publish a notice that the applications are available for public comment, as required by 50 CFR part 222, prior to reaching a decision on whether to issue or deny issuance of the permits.

The following species and evolutionarily significant units are included in these Plans: Endangered Upper Columbia River (UCR) spring-run chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and steelhead (*O. mykiss*), unlisted UCR summer/fall chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Okanogan River and Lake Wenatchee sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), and UCR coho salmon (*O. kisutch*). The Plan also proposes specific procedures, protection and enhancement measures to mitigate for the effects that the Wells, Rocky Reach and Rock Island hydroelectric projects will have on these species, for a period of 50 years. The Wells Dam is owned and operated by the PUD No. 1 of Douglas County and the Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams are owned and operated by the PUD No. 1 of Chelan County. All three of these hydroelectric projects are located on the Mid-Columbia River in central Washington state.

The applicants have provided proposed HCPs with the intent of obtaining incidental take permits pursuant to ESA section 10(a)(1)(B). The proposed HCPs were developed over several years of negotiations with Federal and state resource agencies, Native American Tribes, and with American Rivers (a non-governmental environmental organization). While these negotiations produced proposed agreements on many important issues, it should be noted that not all parties are in support of the HCPs as currently proposed. NMFS has determined that we are unable to execute the agreements until a public review, the requisite environmental reviews, and Federal/Tribal consultations have been completed.

The proposed HCPs include a standard of "no net impact" which consists of a 95-percent juvenile dam passage survival standard and a 91-percent total project survival standard for each of the Plan species. The total project survival standard includes both the juvenile and adult life stages of the

Plan species. The unavoidable project mortality (i.e., the remaining 9-percent of the Plan species still impacted by project operations) will be mitigated through a habitat conservation fund and a supplementation program. The habitat fund will address 2-percent of the unavoidable loss and the supplementation program will address the remaining 7-percent. As a result of this commitment, the applicants are requesting incidental take permits with a term of 50 years, settlement under the Federal Power Act when each project is relicensed, and a "no surprises" guarantee from the Federal government.

Following the DEIS public review and comment period, a preferred alternative will be selected and evaluated for its affect on ESA-listed species. At that time, NMFS will determine the sufficiency of the section 10(a)(1)(B) permit applications and will publish a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** for review of the completed applications and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). NMFS will make its decision regarding issuance of the permit following completion of the FEIS and permit application review period.

The DEIS considers the environmental consequences of three alternatives: (1) no action, (2) ESA coverage pursuant to section 7(a)(2), and (3) ESA coverage pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B). Alternative 1, the no action alternative, would result in continuation of the status quo. Alternative 2 would require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to implement all measures necessary to aid in the recovery of listed species, up to full mitigation of the project effects, although only limited measures would be applied to currently unlisted species. Alternative 3 would utilize the "no net impact" standard, as described previously, and implementation processes set forth in the proposed HCPs to both protect currently listed species and to further protect and enhance the remaining Plan species in an attempt to prevent future listings. The results of implementing each of these alternatives on the human environment have been assessed in the DEIS.

NMFS will use the comments received to modify the DEIS as appropriate and to aid in the selection of the preferred alternative. The applicants will then have an opportunity to modify their HCPs, if necessary, to address information provided during the comment period. Upon completion of a biological opinion on the preferred alternative, NMFS will render its decision.

Dated: December 22, 2000.

Wanda L. Cain,

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

[FR Doc. 00-33227 Filed 12-28-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122100C]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of application to modify permits (1231).

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 applications for permit modifications from: Dr. Lew Ehrhart, University of Central Florida (1231).

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time on January 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on any of the new applications or modification requests should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the application or modification request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. The applications and related documents are available for review.

For permit 1231: Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (ph: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permit 1213: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (phone: 301-713-1401 x148; fax: 301-713-0376); e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a

finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are 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. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals 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 hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESU's) are covered in this notice:

Sea Turtles

Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Modification Requests Received

Permit 1231: The Recovery Plan for the U.S. Population of Atlantic Green Turtle states that the foremost problem in management and conservation of sea turtles is the lack of basic biological information. This study proposes to capture turtles living in the Indian River Lagoon Estuary of central Florida in Brevard and Indian River counties. The data provided by the study will include information regarding habitat requirements, seasonal distribution and abundance, movement and growth, feeding preferences, sex distribution and the prevalence and severity of fibropapilloma.

Modification #1 would authorize satellite tags to be deployed on eight (8) green turtles over the life of the permit. Turtles will be captured during netting operations under permit #1231 and #1144 in the Indian River Lagoon, FL.

Dated: December 21, 2000.

Wanda L. Cain,

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

[FR Doc. 00-33226 Filed 12-28-00; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Taiwan

December 26, 2000.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The Bilateral Textile Agreement, effected by exchange of letters dated January 10, 1997, May 2, 1997 and December 10, 1997, as amended and extended, concerning textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Taiwan, establishes limits for the period January 1, 2001 through March 31, 2001.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to establish limits for the first three months of 2001.

These limits may be revised if Taiwan becomes a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the WTO agreement is applied to Taiwan.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the **CORRELATION:** Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 64 FR 71982, published on December 22, 1999). Information regarding the 2001

CORRELATION will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Donald R. Foote,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 26, 2000.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: Pursuant to section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; and the Bilateral Textile Agreement, effected by exchange of letters dated January 10, 1997 and May 2, 1997, as amended and extended, between the Governments of the United States and Taiwan, you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 2001, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in Taiwan and exported during the three-month period which begins on January 1, 2001 and extends through March 31, 2001, in excess of the following levels of restraint:

Category	Twelve-month limit
Group I 200-224, 225/317/ 326, 226, 227, 229, 300/301/ 607, 313-315, 360-363, 369- L/670-L/870 ¹ , 369-S ² , 369- O ³ , 400-414, 464-469, 600- 606, 611, 613/ 614/615/617, 618, 619/620, 621-624, 625/ 626/627/628/ 629, 665, 666, 669-P ⁴ , 669- T ⁵ , 669-O ⁶ , 670-H ⁷ and 670-O ⁸ , as a group.	145,584,324 square meters equivalent.
Sublevels in Group I 218	5,611,493 square me- ters.
225/317/326	9,960,385 square me- ters.
226	1,807,492 square me- ters.
300/301/607	435,688 kilograms of which not more than 363,074 kilograms shall be in Category 300; not more than 363,074 kilograms shall be in Category 301; and not more than 363,074 kilo- grams shall be in Category 607.