

e-mail comments is Okanogan.nwr@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line the following document identifier: "Okanogan River monitoring". Requests for copies of the permit application should be directed to the Salmon Recovery Division, F/NWR1, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 510, Portland, OR 97232. The documents are also available on the Internet at www.nwr.noaa.gov/1srd. Comments received will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by calling (503) 230-5409.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristine Petersen, Portland, OR (ph: (503) 230-5409, fax: (503) 872-2737, e-mail: kristine.petersen@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the "taking" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The term "take" is defined under the ESA to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS may issue permits, under limited circumstances, to take listed species for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the species under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. NMFS regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are promulgated at 50 CFR 222.307.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) are included in the Permit application:

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*): endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated Upper Columbia River (UCR).

Application Received

On January 18, 2005, the CCT submitted an application to NMFS for an ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) permit for the take of ESA-listed anadromous fish species associated with monitoring of salmon and steelhead in the Okanogan River, a tributary of the Columbia River in Washington.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued to the CCT for the monitoring actions in the Okanogan River. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 10, 2005.

Susan Pultz,

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

[FR Doc. 05-2900 Filed 2-14-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020305C]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Applications for scientific research permits 1513, 1519, and 1521 and a request to modify permit 1322.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received three scientific research permit applications and one modification request relating to Pacific salmon. The proposed research is intended to increase knowledge of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to help guide management and conservation efforts.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific daylight-saving time on March 17, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the application should be sent to Protected Resources Division, NMFS, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503-230-5435 or by e-mail to resapps.nwr@NOAA.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garth Griffin, Portland, OR (ph.: 503-231-2005, Fax: 503-230-5435, e-mail: Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov). Permit application instructions are available at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

The following listed species and evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) are covered in this notice:

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*): endangered Snake River (SR).

Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*): endangered naturally-produced and artificially propagated upper Columbia River (UCR); threatened naturally

produced and artificially propagated SR spring/summer (spr/sum); threatened SR fall; threatened lower Columbia River (LCR); threatened upper Willamette River (UWR); threatened Puget Sound (PS).

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): threatened Columbia River (CR).

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened SR; threatened middle Columbia River (MCR); endangered UCR; threatened LCR; threatened UWR.

Authority

Scientific research permits are issued in accordance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR 222-226). NMFS issues permits based on findings that such permits: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permit; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policy of section 2 of the ESA. The authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits.

Anyone 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 a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA.

Application Received

Permit 1322 - Modification 3

NMFS' Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) is asking to modify its 5-year permit to increase the annual number of listed fish taken in its research and to add take of juvenile UCR steelhead (natural and artificially propagated). The NWFSC is asking to increase its annual take of juvenile SR steelhead, LCR steelhead, MCR steelhead, UWR steelhead, and CR chum salmon while conducting research in the Columbia River estuary. The purposes of the research are to (1) determine the presence and abundance of fall and spring chinook salmon, coho salmon, and chum salmon in the estuary and lower Columbia River; (2) determine the relationship between juvenile salmon and lower Columbia River estuarine habitat; and (3) obtain information about flow change, sediment input, and habitat availability so they may develop a numerical model of the fishes' survival. The research would benefit listed salmonids by serving as a basis for estuarine restoration and preservation plans.

The NWFSC proposes to capture, handle, and release listed salmonids,

and while most of the fish would be unharmed, some would die during the course of the research and a small number of them would intentionally be killed. Purse seines, trapnets and beach seines would be used to capture the fish. Captured fish would be anesthetized, identified, sampled for tissues, and measured. Some fish would be sacrificed to confirm species identification, catch composition, food habits, and timing of estuarine entry.

Permit 1513

Washington Trout (WT) is requesting a 2-year research permit to annually capture, handle, and release juvenile PS chinook salmon. The research would take place in nearshore habitats of Admiralty Inlet, Washington. The purpose of the research is to determine habitat use by listed species in the nearshore waters of Admiralty Inlet. The WT intends to determine juvenile fish presence and abundance on a monthly basis in 2005 and 2006. The research would benefit listed chinook by determining which habitat types are used by juvenile chinook. The information gathered by this research would be used to design and prioritize habitat restoration and preservation projects. The WT proposes to capture the fish using beach seines. Captured fish would be identified, counted, checked for tags or marks, measured, and released. The WT does not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small number may die as an unintended result of the activities.

Permit 1519

The Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) is requesting a 5-year research permit to annually capture, handle, tag, and release juvenile SR sockeye salmon, SR fall chinook salmon, SR spring/summer chinook salmon, UCR chinook salmon, LCR chinook salmon, UWR chinook salmon, SR steelhead, UCR steelhead, MCR steelhead, LCR steelhead, UWR steelhead, and CR chum salmon. The research would take place in Grays Bay, Washington and Youngs Bay, Oregon in the Columbia River estuary. The purpose of the research is to evaluate estuarine habitat restoration efforts. Specific objectives are to (1) determine species composition, relative abundance, and residence time of various listed fish by using pre-restored and restoration project habitats and adjacent reference sites; (2) determine prey utilization by juvenile salmon; and (3) determine prey availability. The research would benefit listed salmonids by determining how effectively currently altered habitats support

salmonids and using that information to guide future habitat modifications.

The CREST proposes to capture the fish using fyke nets, trap nets, and beach seines. Most of the captured fish would be anesthetized, identified, counted, measured, weighed, checked for tags and marks, and released. Some of the fish would be tagged with passive integrated transponders, or injected with dye or visible implant elastomers. Fin or scale tissue samples for genetic or age analysis would be taken from a portion of the captured juvenile chinook salmon. Some of the captured juvenile salmonid would be sampled for stomach content. The CREST does not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small number may die as an unintended result of the activities.

Permit 1521

Wyllie-Echeverria Associates (WEA) is requesting a 2-year research permit to annually capture, handle, fin-clip, and release juvenile PS chinook salmon. The research would take place in nearshore habitats of Orcas and Waldron Islands, Washington. The purpose of the research is to determine which salmonid species and which chinook salmon stocks use the nearshore habitats of the islands. The WEA intends to determine juvenile fish presence and abundance on a monthly basis in 2005 and 2006. The research would benefit listed chinook by providing direct evidence of species- and stock-specific use of nearshore habitats. The information gathered by this research would be used to set priorities for protecting nearshore habitats. The WEA proposes to capture fish using beach seines, surface tow nets, and toss nets. Captured fish would be identified, counted, checked for tags or marks, measured, and released. Fin-clip samples would be collected for genetic analysis from a subsample of the captured fish. The WEA does not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small number may die as an unintended result of the activities.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decisions will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 8, 2005.

Susan Pultz,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP05-172-000]

CenterPoint Energy—Mississippi River Transmission Corporation; Notice of Tariff Filing

February 7, 2005.

Take notice that on February 1, 2005, CenterPoint Energy—Mississippi River Transmission Corporation (MRT) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets, with an effective date of March 3, 2005:

First Revised Sheet No. 87

Second Revised Sheet No. 88

MRT states that the filing seeks filed to change section 4 of MRT's tariff to establish gas quality specifications that are consistent with other pipelines in the industry and in MRT's geographical area.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed in accordance with the provisions of Section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 154.210). Anyone filing an intervention or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant. Anyone filing an intervention or protest on or before the intervention or protest date need not serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,