

research/enhancement purposes. The corresponding regulations established procedures for persons to apply for such permits. In addition, the regulations set forth specific reporting requirements for such permit holders. The regulations contain two sets of information collections: (1) Applications for research/enhancement permits, and (2) reporting requirements for permits issued.

The required information is used to evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity on endangered species, to make the determinations required by the ESA prior to issuing a permit, and to establish appropriate permit conditions. To issue permits under ESA Section 10(a)(1)(A), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) must determine that (1) such exceptions were applied for in good faith, (2) if granted and exercised, will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species, and (3) will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the ESA.

The currently approved application and reporting requirements are being revised to apply only to Pacific salmon and steelhead, as requirements regarding other species are being addressed in a separate information collection. Clarification of some of the instructions will also be provided, based on previous applicants' responses and submitted applications and reports.

## II. Method of Collection

Respondents have a choice of either electronic or paper forms. Methods of submittal include e-mail of electronic forms, and mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0402.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Non-profit institutions; State, local, or tribal government; business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 131.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Permit applications, 20 hours; permit modification requests and final reports, 10 hours; and annual reports, 5 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 865.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$18,646.

## IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including

whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 15, 2008.

### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XK57**

### Endangered and Threatened Species; Recovery Plan for White Abalone

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the availability of a final recovery plan for the white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*). This endangered gastropod is a long-lived, slow moving bottom dweller and is a member of the California Haliotids. Currently, isolated survivors have been identified along the mainland coast in Santa Barbara County and at some of the offshore islands and banks along the central California coast. NMFS' ultimate goal is to increase white abalone abundance to viable and self-sustaining levels such that the species can be downlisted to threatened status and eventually removed from the Endangered Species List.

**ADDRESSES:** The final Plan can be obtained via the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov> or by submitting a request to the Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213. You may also

contact NMFS by e-mail at: [whiteabalone.recoveryplan@noaa.gov](mailto:whiteabalone.recoveryplan@noaa.gov); by facsimile at: 562-980-4027, Attention: Melissa Neuman.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melissa Neuman, NMFS, Southwest Region at 562-980-4115.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals or plants is a primary goal of the endangered species program. A species is considered recovered once the species' ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate the time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

White abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) was listed as the first federally endangered marine invertebrate under the United States Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (ESA) in May 2001. The ESA requires that NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of threatened and endangered species under its jurisdiction, unless it is determined that such plans would not promote the conservation of the species. Accordingly, during the summer of 2002, NMFS appointed a recovery team comprised of experts in the fields of abalone biology and ecology, conservation biology, genetics, population dynamics and modeling, pathology, aquaculture, and marine policy to develop a recovery plan (Plan) as mandated by the ESA.

NMFS sought a scientific review of the draft Plan by 12 experts in October 2005. NMFS requested that the scientific reviewers consider: (1) issues and assumptions relating to the biological and ecological information of the draft Plan, and (2) scientific data relating to the tasks in the proposed recovery program. Four reviewers responded to NMFS' request. The recovery team reconvened in June 2006 to consider the reviewer's comments and incorporate changes to the draft Plan accordingly. On November 2, 2006 (71 FR 64512) the draft Plan was made available for public comment. NMFS considered all substantive comments and information presented during the public comment period in the course of finalizing this Plan. We will forward

substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The purposes of the Plan are to: (1) delineate those aspects of white abalone biology, life history, and threats that are pertinent to its endangerment and recovery; (2) outline and justify a strategy to achieve recovery; (3) identify the site-specific management actions necessary to achieve recovery; (4) identify goals and criteria by which to measure the achievement of recovery; (5) serve as an outreach tool by articulating the reasons for white abalone's endangerment, and by explaining why the particular suite of recovery actions described is the most effective and efficient approach to achieving recovery; (6) help potential cooperators and partners understand the rationale behind the recovery actions identified, and assist them in identifying how they can facilitate recovery; (7) serve as a tool for monitoring recovery activities; and (8) be used to obtain funding for NMFS and its partners by identifying necessary recovery actions and their relative priority in the recovery process.

The objective of this Plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of white abalone so that protection under the ESA is no longer necessary. As recovery criteria are met, the status of the white abalone will be reviewed and considered for reclassification to threatened status or for removal from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (50 CFR part 17). The white abalone will be considered for delisting when: (1) the density of emergent (detectable by human observation without substrate disturbance) animals (short term) is greater than 2,000 per hectare for 75 percent of the geographic localities; (2) a total of 380,000 animals are maintained in the wild, distributed among all geographic localities in the USA and Mexico; (3) the proportion of size of emergent animals in 75 percent of geographic localities includes at least 85 percent intermediate-size animals (90 to 130 mm); (4) proportion of size of emergent animals in 75 percent of geographic localities includes no more than 15 percent large animals ( $\leq 130$  mm); (5) there is a stable or increasing estimate of geometric population growth ( $\lambda \geq 1$ ) for  $>75$  percent of the geographic localities over a ten year period; and (6) there is reoccupation of white abalone over a spatial scale that encompasses their historic range such that 75 percent of the geographic

localities in the USA and Mexico are reoccupied and meet the recovery criteria.

Dated: October 14, 2008.

**Angela Somma,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 0810141353-81354-01]

#### Public Telecommunications Facilities Program: Closing Date

**AGENCY:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Closing Date for Solicitation of Applications; Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, Public Law No. 110-329 (2008), the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce, announces the solicitation of applications for planning and construction grants for public telecommunications facilities under the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP). The PTFP assists, through matching grants, in the planning and construction of public telecommunications facilities in order to: (1) Extend delivery of services to as many citizens as possible by the most cost-effective means, including use of broadcast and non-broadcast technologies; (2) increase public telecommunications services and facilities available to, operated by, and controlled by minorities and women; and (3) strengthen the capability of existing public television and radio stations to provide public telecommunications services to the public.

**DATES:** Applications must be received prior to 5 p.m. Eastern Time (Closing Time), December 18, 2008 (Closing Date). Applications submitted by facsimile are not acceptable. If an application is received after the Closing Date due to (1) carrier error, when the carrier accepted the package with a guarantee for delivery by the Closing Date and Closing Time, (2) significant weather delays or natural disasters, or

(3) delays due to national security issues, NTIA will, upon receipt of proper documentation, consider the application as having been received by the deadline. NTIA will not accept applications posted on the Closing Date or later and received after this deadline.

**ADDRESSES:** To obtain a printed application package, submit completed applications, or send any other correspondence, write to PTFP at the following address (please note the new room number): NTIA/PTFP, Room H-4812, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Application materials may be obtained electronically via the Internet at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ptfp> or <http://www.grants.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Cooperman, Director, Public Broadcasting Division, *telephone:* (202) 482-5802; *fax:* (202) 482-2156. Information about the PTFP can also be obtained electronically via the Internet at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ptfp>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Electronic Access

The full funding opportunity announcement for the PTFP fiscal year (FY) 2009 grant cycle is available through <http://www.Grants.gov> or by contacting the PTFP office at the address noted above.

##### Funding Availability

Issuance of grants is subject to the availability of FY 2009 funds. At this time, the Congress has passed the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, Public Law No. 110-329 (2008), to fund operations of the PTFP through March 6, 2009. Further notice will be made in the **Federal Register** about the final status of funding for this program at the appropriate time. For FY 2008, NTIA awarded \$18.5 million in PTFP funds to 109 projects, including 61 radio awards, 45 television awards and 3 nonbroadcast awards. The radio awards ranged from \$8,800 to \$337,684. The television awards ranged from \$10,000 to \$801,345. The nonbroadcast awards ranged from \$89,853 to \$187,931.

##### Statutory and Regulatory Authority

The Public Telecommunications Facilities Program is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 390-393, 397-399(b). The PTFP operates pursuant to rules (1996 Rules) which were published on November 8, 1996 (61 FR 57966). Copies of the 1996 Rules (15