

for any recommended changes. Where possible, reference the specific section or paragraph of the companion manual which you are addressing.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, phone number, e-mail address or other personal identifying information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment.

Dated: September 9, 2011.

**James Norris,**  
Director, Safety and Environmental  
Compliance Office, National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2011-23864 Filed 9-15-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA697

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of permits.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has issued permit 15926 to UC Davis Department of Animal Science Genomic Variation Laboratory [Responsible Party: Dr. Bernie P. May], Department of Animal Science, University of California, Davis, One Shields Avenue Davis, CA 95616; and permit 16083 to Natural Resource Scientists, Incorporated [Responsible Party: Dave A. Vogel], P.O. Box 1210, Red Bluff, CA 96080; for purposes of scientific research.

**ADDRESSES:** Permits and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s): Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 13415 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 427-2521; and NMFS, Protected Resources Division, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100, Sacramento, CA 958914-4706; phone (916) 930-3600; fax (916) 930-3629.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Shirley Witalis at phone number (916)

930-3606, or e-mail  
[shirley.witalis@noaa.gov](mailto:shirley.witalis@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is relevant to Federally endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), threatened California Central Valley steelhead (*O. mykiss*), and threatened Southern distinct population segment of North American green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*). Permits 15926 and 16083 have been issued under the authority of 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 and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

#### Permits

Permit 15926 was issued to UC Davis Department of Animal Science Genomic Variation Laboratory (UC Davis) on September 7, 2011, authorizing the transfer of ESA-listed tissue specimens from the California Department of Fish and Game Central Valley Salmonid Tissue Archive to UC Davis, for purposes of genetic investigation. The archived collection includes tissue specimens from endangered Sacramento River (SR) winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), threatened Central Valley (CV) spring-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), and threatened California Central Valley (CCV) steelhead (*O. mykiss*). UC Davis will genotype the tissues, utilizing microsatellite and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs) markers, to study genetic relationships associated with different geographic populations and identify potential salmonid sources for introduction into the San Joaquin River Restoration Program project area, below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, a tributary to the San Joaquin River, in the Central Valley, California. Permit 15926 will expire on October 31, 2016.

Permit 16083 was issued to Natural Resource Scientists, Incorporated (NRSI) on June 27, 2011, authorizing the take of ESA-listed SR winter-run Chinook salmon, CV spring-run Chinook salmon, CV steelhead and threatened Southern distinct population segment of North American (sDPS) green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*) for scientific research purposes. NRSI will collect fish entrainment data at five unscreened irrigation water diversions located along the Sacramento River and Delta, in Sutter, Yolo and Sacramento counties, in the Central Valley, California.

Juvenile fish will be captured by fyke net, identified to species, enumerated and measured. Dead or moribund fish will be returned to the irrigation canals and live fish will be released into the Sacramento River. The objectives of the study are: to determine correlation of fish entrainment with river diversion flows, to quantify benefits to fish populations from screening small-scale agricultural diversions, and to advance the development of criteria for prioritizing fish screening projects on the Sacramento River. Permit 16083 will expire on January 31, 2013.

Dated: September 12, 2011.

**Angela Somma,**

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

[FR Doc. 2011-23831 Filed 9-15-11; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA696

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of applications for scientific research permits; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received applications for section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) scientific research permits from FISHBIO Environmental, LLC (FISHBIO) in Oakdale, CA (16531), and California Department of Water Resources Environmental Services (DWR-ES), in West Sacramento, CA (16543). This document serves to notify the public of availability of the permit applications for review and comment.

**DATES:** Written comments on the permit applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on October 17, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the permit applications should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to: [FRNpermitsSAC@noaa.gov](mailto:FRNpermitsSAC@noaa.gov) or fax to the number indicated for the request. The applications and related documents are available for review by appointment: Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite

5–100, Sacramento, CA 95814 (ph: 916–930–3600, fax: 916–930–3629).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Shirley Witalis at phone number 916–930–3606, or e-mail: *FRNpermitsSAC@noaa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Authority**

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the ESA of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1543), 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 a 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**

This notice is relevant to Federally endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), threatened California Central Valley steelhead (*O. mykiss*), and threatened Southern distinct population segment of North American green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*).

**Applications Received**

FISHBIO requests a 5-year permit (16531) for an estimated annual take of adult and juvenile steelhead associated with research studies linking habitat and spatial variability in the Merced River, a tributary to the San Joaquin River, in the Central Valley, California. Activities proposed under Permit 16531 include evaluation of the effects of attraction flow augmentation on adult salmonid migration timing and salmonid spawning and rearing habitats; and data collection on fry and juvenile salmonid abundance, outmigration and survival in the lower Merced River. Indirect mortality of steelhead may

occur during the implementation of research activities authorized under Permit 16531.

FISHBIO proposes to monitor a fish counting weir operating from October 1 through December 31, in the lower Merced River, for enumeration of upstream migrating salmonids in conjunction with flow augmentation of the Merced River. FISHBIO will use a Didson sonar camera to observe fish migration at the weir. No mortality is anticipated with monitoring at the weir.

FISHBIO proposes to monitor annual juvenile salmonid outmigration from January 1 through June 15, by rotary screw trapping in the upper and lower Merced River. Captured fish will be identified to species and enumerated. A subsample of 30 juvenile salmonids will be sedated with tricaine methanesulfonate (MS-222), measured for lengths and weights, allowed to recover and will be released downstream. FISHBIO does not propose lethal take of fish being captured but some fish may expire as an unintentional result of research activities.

FISHBIO requests authorization for an estimated annual take of 25 natural-origin adult California Central Valley steelhead associated with observation and harassment during monitoring at the Merced River weir. FISHBIO requests authorization for an estimated annual take of 10 (2 indirect mortality) natural-origin adult California Central Valley steelhead; and 50 (5 indirect mortality) natural-origin juvenile California Central Valley steelhead associated with capture by rotary screw trap, handling, anesthetization, and release downstream of the Merced River trapping sites.

DWR-ES requests a 3-year permit (16543) to investigate predation of migrating native fishes as part of an ongoing investigation of predation dynamics in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (delta), in the Central Valley, California. DWR-ES proposes to research predation by introduced and native resident fishes at six specific sites across fish migration corridors in the delta. The study will be conducted from November 30, 2011, to August 1, 2013, and will involve fish capture by gillnet and genetic analysis of trapped fish gut contents of various prey items. ESA-listed adult salmonids and green sturgeon incidentally collected in the gill nets will be measured and released after sufficient recovery in an aerated holding tank. DWR-ES requests authorization for the annual take of 5 (1 indirect mortality) natural-origin and 10 (1 indirect mortality) hatchery-origin Sacramento

River winter-run Chinook salmon adults, 12 (1 indirect mortality) natural-origin and 8 (1 indirect mortality) hatchery-origin Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon adults, 5 (1 indirect mortality) natural-origin and 10 (1 indirect mortality) hatchery-origin California Central Valley steelhead, and 1 adult, 5 subadult, and 2 juvenile natural Southern distinct population segment of North American green sturgeon associated with capture by gill net, handling (removal from net, length measurement, tank recovery), and release back into the delta ecosystem. No indirect mortality is anticipated for green sturgeon during the implementation of research activities authorized under Permit 16543.

Dated: September 12, 2011.

**Angela Somma,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648–XA706**

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Spring Hill Suites, 43 Newbury Street, Peabody, MA 01960; **telephone:** (978) 535–5000; **fax:** (978) 535–9610.

**Council address:** New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; **telephone:** (978) 465–0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

The Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet to continue development of Framework Adjustment 47 (FW 47) to