

information that can be used to assist NOAA in timely planning. The SAB was also asked to provide advice on an appropriate organizational approach, within NOAA, for support of this R&D portfolio.

NOAA welcomes all comments on the content of the draft report. We also request comments on any perceived inconsistencies within the report, and possible omissions of important topics or issues. For any shortcoming noted within the report, please propose specific remedies. Suggested changes will be incorporated where appropriate, and a final report will be posted on the SAB Web site prior to the February 2013 SAB teleconference meeting. This draft report is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use.

Complying with the following instructions will facilitate the processing of comments and assure that all comments are appropriately considered. (1) Identify the person providing the comments by name and organization. (2) Overview comments should be provided first and should be numbered. (3) Comments that are specific to particular pages, paragraphs or lines of the section should follow any overview comments and should identify the page and line numbers to which they apply. (4) Please number each page of your comments.

Dated: December 17, 2012.

Jason Donaldson,

Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2012-30884 Filed 12-21-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC400

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a scientific research permit.

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

documents may be viewed online at: https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/preview/preview_open_for_comment.cfm. These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment by contacting NMFS by phone (707) 575-6097 or fax (707) 578-3435.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on January 23, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to the Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Comments may also be submitted via fax to (707) 578-3435 or by email to FRNpermits.SR@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Jahn, Santa Rosa, CA (ph.: 707-575-6097, email: Jeffrey.Jahn@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

This notice is relevant to federally threatened Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

Authority

Scientific research permits are issued in accordance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 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 which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in 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 the application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on the application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). Such hearings are held at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS.

Application Received

Permit 16417

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is requesting a 5-year scientific research permit to take juvenile Central California Coast (CCC) steelhead associated with a research project in Coyote Creek, Steven's Creek, and the Guadalupe River in Santa Clara County, California. This permit is a renewal of Permit 1121 previously

issued to SCVWD. In the study described below, researchers do not expect to kill any listed fish but a small number may die as an unintended result of the research activities.

This project is part of an ongoing effort to monitor status and trends of CCC steelhead in Santa Clara County and determine relationships between CCC steelhead population abundance and SCVWD water operations and activities. This data will aid future research, restoration, and conservation efforts for ESA-listed steelhead. The objective is to continue out-migrant trapping on a daily basis from March 1 through June 15, annually. In this project, adult, juvenile, and smolt CCC steelhead will be captured (by fyke net), handled (identified, measured, weighed), marked (caudal fin-clips), sampled (fin-clips, scales), and released. A subset of fin-clipped steelhead smolts will be released upstream of the trap for a mark-recapture study to determine trap efficiency. All data and information will be shared with county, state, and federal entities for use in conservation and restoration planning efforts related to CCC steelhead.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the applications, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the applications meet 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 actions in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 17, 2012.

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

Hydrographic Services Review Panel

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of membership solicitation for Hydrographic Services Review Panel.

SUMMARY: This notice responds to the Hydrographic Service Improvements Act Amendments of 2002, Public Law

107–372, which requires the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to solicit nominations (on a yearly basis) for membership on the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP). The HSRP, a Federal advisory committee, advises the Administrator on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (as amended) and such other appropriate matters as the Administrator refers to the Panel for review and advice. The Act states, “the voting members of the Panel shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields relating to hydrographic data and hydrographic services, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, coastal and fishery management, and other disciplines as determined appropriate by the Administrator.” The NOAA Administrator is seeking to broaden the areas of expertise represented on the Panel and encourages individuals with expertise in navigation data, products and services; coastal management; fisheries management; coastal and marine spatial planning; geodesy; water levels; and other science-related fields to apply for Panel membership. To apply for membership on the Panel, applicants should submit a current resume as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section. A cover letter highlighting specific areas of expertise relevant to the purpose of the Panel is helpful, but not required. NOAA is an equal opportunity employer.

DATES: Resume application materials should be sent to the address, email, or fax specified and must be received by January 31, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Submit resume for Panel membership to Kathy Watson via mail, fax, or email. Mail: Kathy Watson, NOAA National Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey, NOAA (N/CS), 1315 East West Highway, SSMC3 Rm 6126, Silver Spring, MD, 20910; Fax: 301–713–4019; Email: Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov; or kathy.watson@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Watson, NOAA National Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey, NOAA (N/CS), 1315 East West Highway, SSMC3 Rm 6126, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910; Telephone: 301–713–2770 x158, Fax: 301–713–4019; Email: Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov; or kathy.watson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 33 U.S.C. 883a, *et seq.*, NOAA’s National Ocean Service (NOS) is responsible for

providing nautical charts and related information for safe navigation. NOS collects and compiles hydrographic, tidal and current, geodetic, and a variety of other data in order to fulfill this responsibility. The HSRP provides advice on current and emerging oceanographic and marine science technologies relating to operations, research and development; and dissemination of data pertaining to:

- (A) Hydrographic surveying;
- (b) Shoreline surveying;
- (C) Nautical charting;
- (d) Water level measurements;
- (e) Current measurements;
- (f) Geodetic measurements;
- (g) Geospatial measurements;
- (h) Geomagnetic measurements; and
- (i) Other oceanographic/marine

related sciences.

The Panel has fifteen voting members appointed by the NOAA Administrator in accordance with 33 U.S.C. 892c. Members are selected on a standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. The Co-Directors of the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center and two other NOAA employees serve as nonvoting members of the Panel. The Director, NOAA Office of Coast Survey, serves as the Designated Federal Official (DFO).

Although there are no current vacancies on the HSRP at this time, this solicitation seeks to update the current pool of candidate applications for consideration of appointment for potential future vacancies on the Panel.

Voting members are individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more disciplines relating to hydrographic surveying, tides, currents, geodetic and geospatial measurements, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, coastal or fishery management, and other oceanographic or marine science areas as deemed appropriate by the Administrator. Full-time officers or employees of the United States may not be appointed as a voting member. Any voting member of the Panel who is an applicant for, or beneficiary of (as determined by the Administrator) any assistance under 33 U.S.C. 892c shall disclose to the Panel that relationship, and may not vote on any other matter pertaining to that assistance.

Voting members of the Panel serve a four-year term, except that vacancy appointments are for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy. Members serve at the discretion of the Administrator and are subject to government ethics standards. Any individual appointed to a partial or full

term may be reappointed for one additional full term. A voting member may serve until his or her successor has taken office. The Panel selects one voting member to serve as the Chair and another to serve as the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair acts as Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair but will not automatically become the Chair if the Chair resigns. Meetings occur at least twice a year, and at the call of the Chair or upon the request of a majority of the voting members or of the Administrator. Voting members receive compensation at a rate established by the Administrator, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, when engaged in performing duties for the Panel. Members are reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in performing such duties.

Individuals Selected for Panel Membership

Upon selection and agreement to serve on the HSRP Panel, you become a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. 18 U.S.C. 202(a) an SGE (s) is an officer or employee of an agency who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, not to exceed 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days, either on a fulltime or intermittent basis. Please be aware that after the selection process is complete, applicants selected to serve on the Panel must complete the following actions before they can be appointed as a Panel member:

(a) Security Clearance (on-line Background Security Check process and fingerprinting conducted through NOAA Workforce Management); and

(b) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report—As an SGE, you are required to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report to avoid involvement in a real or apparent conflict of interest. You may find the Confidential Financial Disclosure Report at the following Web site. http://www.usoge.gov/forms/form_450.aspx

Dated: December 12, 2012.

Rear Admiral Gerd F. Glang,

NOAA, Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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