

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XC644

Marine Mammals; File No. 18016

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Tamara McGuire, LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc., 2000 W International Airport Rd, Suite C1, Anchorage, AK 99502, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on Cook Inlet beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before June 3, 2013.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting “Records Open for Public Comment” from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 18016 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, NMFS,
1315 East-West Highway, Room
13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910;
phone (301) 427–8401; fax (301) 713–
0376; and

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668,
Juneau, AK 99802–1668; phone (907)
586–7221; fax (907) 586–7249.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713–0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Hapeman or Rosa L. González, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the

authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), 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).

The applicant requests a 5-year permit to approach by vessel beluga whales in Cook Inlet, Alaska for photo-identification and observations. The purpose of the research is to identify individual whales and to provide information about movement patterns, habitat use, survivorship, reproduction, and population size. The applicant requests to harass up to 72 whales between April and November each year.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: April 30, 2013.

P. Michael Payne,

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013–10476 Filed 5–2–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XC653

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt and request for comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received an application for a direct take permit, in the form of a Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The application is for a hatchery program in Idaho, for the propagation of

sockeye salmon. The proposed permit would be issued for a period of 10 years. This document serves to notify the public of the availability of the permit application for public review, comment, and submission of written data, views, arguments, or other relevant information. This document also serves to notify the public of NMFS’ intent to adopt an existing environmental assessment that addresses the proposed Snake River sockeye salmon hatchery program. All comments and other information received will become part of the public record and will be available for review pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA.

DATES: Comments and other submissions must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on June 3, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written responses to the application and the proposed adoption of the associated environmental assessment should be sent to Craig Busack, National Marine Fisheries Services, Salmon Management Division, 1201 N.E. Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232. Comments may also be submitted by email to: SockeyePlan.nwr@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the email comment the following identifier: Comments on Snake River sockeye salmon hatchery plan. Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (503) 872–2737. The permit application and associated documents are available on the Internet at www.nwr.noaa.gov. Requests for copies of the permit application and associated documents may also be directed to the National Marine Fisheries Services, Salmon Management Division, 1201 N.E. Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232. Comments received will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by calling (503) 230–5418.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Busack at (503) 230–5412 or email: craig.busack@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Species Covered in This Notice**

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*): endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated Snake River.

Background

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 to take listed species for any act otherwise prohibited by section 9 for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected 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.

On May 15, 2012, NMFS received an application, including an HGMP, from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, a section 10(a)(1)(A) research/enhancement permit for continued operation of the Redfish Lake Sockeye Salmon Captive Propagation program.

The proposed program would increase the abundance of the listed species through artificial propagation and to serve as a safety net to prevent extinction of the Snake River Sockeye Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), which is listed as endangered under the ESA. The proposed program would maintain the Snake River sockeye salmon broodstock in captivity in several locations, largely at the Springfield Hatchery in eastern Idaho, collect and spawn adult sockeye salmon returning to the Snake River basin, rear juveniles, and release eggs, juveniles, and adult fish into upper Salmon River basin lakes. The proposed program would include best management practices to minimize adverse effects on the ESU. Best management practices would include the use of prudent fish husbandry practices and standard hatchery protocols to ensure health and survival of the program fish, selection of eggs and juveniles in a manner designed to represent to the greatest extent possible the entire genetic spectrum of the founding population, and the conduct of spawning ground surveys to estimate natural spawning escapement and to determine the effects of captive-reared fish on spawner distribution and behavior. An environmental assessment was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for its funding of the Snake River sockeye salmon hatchery program, including modifications to the Springfield Hatchery. Because the BPA action is substantially the same as the actions addressed by the proposed ESA permit, because they are both administrative actions that allow IDFG to operate the Snake River sockeye salmon hatchery program consistent with the submitted HGMP and the Springfield Sockeye Hatchery Master Plan, NMFS proposes to adopt the BPA environmental assessment to comply with the NEPA.

Authority

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 IDFG for the purpose of carrying out the hatchery program. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

NEPA requires Federal agencies to conduct an environmental analysis of their proposed actions to determine if the actions may affect the human environment. NMFS expects to take action on an application for a permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. Because NMFS' proposed action is closely linked to the BPA funding action already considered under NEPA, to reduce the potential for substantial redundancy and duplication of effort in complying with NEPA, NMFS is proposing to adopt the BPA environmental assessment for the proposed issuance of the permit. Therefore, NMFS is also seeking public input on its proposed adoption.

Dated: April 30, 2013.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2013-10477 Filed 5-2-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC657

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will hold a conference call, which is open to the public.

DATES: The HMSMT conference call will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, and last for approximately one and a half hours. There will be public listening stations at the Council office and Southwest Fishery Science Center (see **ADDRESSES**, below).

ADDRESSES:

Southwest Fishery Science Center address: 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037.

Council address: Pacific Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kit Dahl, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HMSMT requested further guidance on an assignment from the March 2013 Council meeting in Tacoma, WA. The Pacific Council directed the HMSMT to identify potential measures that should be implemented pursuant to the precautionary management framework for North Pacific albacore currently under development at the international level. The HMSMT will discuss further guidance with Pacific Council and NMFS staff during the conference call. The HMSMT will hold a separate meeting to prepare a report with recommendations on this topic for the June 20-25, 2013, Pacific Council meeting.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during the meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 30, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2013-10520 Filed 5-2-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC656

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and