

information by visiting our website at [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org).

**Council address:** Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The original meeting notice published in the **Federal Register** on January 10, 2023 (88 FR 1366). This notice adds an additional agenda item to the Tuesday, January 31, 2023 agenda. All other previously published information remains unchanged.

The agenda for January 31st should now read as follows:

**Tuesday, January 31, 2023; 8 a.m.–5 p.m., CST**

The *Reef Fish* Committee will reconvene to review and discuss the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Focus Group Outcomes, Program Priorities List and Draft Amendment 56: Modifications to the *Gag Grouper* Catch Limits, Sector Allocations, and Fishing Seasons. The Committee will have a 30-minute break for a working lunch. Following the break, the Committee will review Draft Options: Modifications to Recreational and Commercial *Greater Amberjack* Management Measures. The Committee will review the Revised Recreational *Red Snapper* Calibration Ratios, and the January 2023 Gulf SSC Summary Report including catch level recommendations for SEDAR 75 Gray Snapper Stock Assessment and 2023 Red Grouper Interim Analysis.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: January 12, 2023.

**Key Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023-00898 Filed 1-18-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC675]

#### Endangered Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt; for modification and renewal of an existing

scientific research and enhancement permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS received an application from the Wiyot Tribe in Loleta, California for modification and renewal of an U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 10(a)(1)(A) scientific and enhancement permit (Permit 22270-2R). The purpose of the permit is to enhance the survival of threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*); threatened California Coast (CC) ESU Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*); and threatened Northern California (NC) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead (*O. mykiss*) by segregating and removing predatory non-native Sacramento River pikeminnow using a variety of techniques. The University of California at Berkeley and Stillwater Sciences are co-investigators on the permit and will assist with implementation of the permit activities. The public is hereby notified that the application for Permit 22270-2R is available for review and comment before NMFS either approves or disapproves the application.

**DATES:** Written comments on the permit application must be received at the appropriate email address (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before February 21, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the permit application should be submitted to Matt Goldsworthy via email at [Matt.Goldsworthy@noaa.gov](mailto:Matt.Goldsworthy@noaa.gov) with “Permit 22270-2R” referenced in the subject line. The permit application and Weir Operations Plan is available for review online at the Authorizations and Permits for Protected Species website: [https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/preview/preview\\_open\\_for\\_comment.cfm](https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/preview/preview_open_for_comment.cfm).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Matt Goldsworthy (phone: 707-357-1338 or email: [Matt.Goldsworthy@noaa.gov](mailto:Matt.Goldsworthy@noaa.gov)).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Species Covered in This Notice

Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*); California Coast (CC) ESU of Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*); and Northern California (NC) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead (*O. mykiss*).

##### Authority

Scientific research and enhancement 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 222-227). NMFS issues permits based on findings that such permits: (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.

This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and any comment 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 and consideration of any comment submitted therein. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Those individuals requesting a hearing on the application listed in this notice should provide the specific reasons why a hearing on the application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). Such a hearing is held at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

Permit Application Received:

##### Permit 22270-2R

The Wiyot Tribe in Loleta, California applied for modification and renewal of a Section 10(a)(1)(A) scientific research and enhancement permit (Permit 22270-2R). The University of California at Berkeley and Stillwater Sciences are co-investigators on the permit and will assist with implementation of the permit activities. The application involves research and activities to enhance the survival of threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*); threatened California Coast (CC) ESU Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*); and threatened Northern California (NC) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead (*O. mykiss*) by segregating and removing predatory non-native river pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus grandis*) using a variety of techniques.

This project's objectives are to: (1) remove large numbers of predatory non-native Sacramento River pikeminnow from the mainstems of the South Fork Eel River, Van Duzen River, and Lower Eel River to increase survival of listed salmonids and other native species; (2) continue to refine methods and strategies for pikeminnow population

suppression across a range of habitats; (3) operate a resistance board weir to segregate pikeminnow from the South Fork Eel River headwaters and further suppress their population; and (4) evaluate pikeminnow and salmonid responses to suppression activities. This work, which may occur for up to five years, will affect SONCC coho salmon, CC Chinook salmon, and NC steelhead.

Suppression techniques will include boat electrofishing, seining, active gillnetting, spearfishing, hook-and-line, and the weir trap box. Suppression timing, gear types, and methods are designed to minimize encountering and impacting salmonids. Importantly, prior to conducting suppression, sites will be snorkeled and will be avoided if salmonids are present. The weir will be operated after April 1, by which time most steelhead will have spawned and emigrated. A small proportion of adult steelhead will move through the weir.

To investigate how pikeminnow suppression influences their movement and survival, juvenile coho salmon, Chinook salmon and steelhead will be captured with downstream migrant traps, a portion of juvenile coho salmon and juvenile steelhead will be acoustically-tagged, released, and tracked with a network of receivers.

Field activities for the various proposed research and enhancement components will occur annually as described for each location below for a duration of approximately 5 years through December 31, 2028.

#### *Resistance Board Weir Operations Plan*

The seasonal resistance board weir will be constructed in the mainstem South Fork Eel River just downstream from Indian Creek, 83 river kilometers upstream from the mainstem Eel River. For details on the specifics of the weir design, operation, and measures to reduce impacts on native fish see the supplemental document "Weir Operation Plan." The primary goals of this method are to: (1) segregate migratory pikeminnow from prime salmon rearing habitat in the upper mainstem South Fork Eel River; (2) capture and euthanize large numbers of these introduced predatory fish and (3) better understand the life history timing of pikeminnow and native salmonids.

#### *Other Suppression Techniques*

Suppression techniques will include boat electrofishing, seining, active gillnetting, spearfishing, hook-and-line, and the resistance board weir (discussed above). Boat electrofishing will only be conducted in the lower reaches of the South Fork Eel River that do not contain salmonids during the summer sampling

period. Prior to electrofishing, each sample site will be snorkeled to determine where pikeminnow are and to verify that no salmonids are present.

Seining will be conducted in the South Fork Eel River, Van Duzen River, and Lower Eel River using knotless nylon nets. In addition to sampling smaller size classes of pikeminnow in shallow water, seines may be deployed for active sampling, where snorkelers herd fish out of deeper water into the nets. Seines will also be used to capture juvenile coho salmon and steelhead for acoustic tagging.

Active gillnetting will be conducted in the mainstems of the South Fork Eel River, Van Duzen River, and Lower Eel River during time periods to avoid salmonids. As with other methods, prior to conducting gillnetting, each site will be snorkeled to ensure the absence of non-target species. Gillnets will never be left unattended in the water; gillnets will be actively tended and constantly inspected to ensure no harm is done to salmonids or other non-target species. At some sites, two gillnets will may be actively maneuvered toward each other by divers to capture fleeing pikeminnow.

Spearfishing and hook and line sampling will be conducted in the South Fork Eel River, Van Duzen River, and Lower Eel River. Only divers with extensive experience distinguishing pikeminnow from native fish will be used. Hook-and-line sampling will rely on using only barbless hooks and any juvenile steelhead or other non-target species captured will be released immediately.

The following activities in the South Fork Eel River will occur annually:

Feb 1–Jun 1: Daily for up to 2 weeks—downstream migrant trapping, seining  
 April 1–October 1: Opportunistically—seining, electrofishing  
 April 1–October 31: Daily—resistance board weir; Biweekly—spearfishing, seining  
 April 1–September 30: Biweekly—active gillnetting, hook-and-line, snorkeling  
 July 1–September 30: Weekly—boat electrofishing  
 June 15–August 31: Biweekly—spearfishing, seining, active gillnetting, hook- and-line, snorkeling

The annual sum of take requested across the various components of this effort in the South Fork Eel River are as follows: (1) non-lethal capture (backpack electrofishing, beach seining, or fyke net) and release of up to 1,000 juvenile SONCC coho salmon, 1,000 juvenile CC Chinook salmon, and 1,000 juvenile NC steelhead; (2) non-lethal capture (backpack electrofishing, beach seining, or fyke net) and release of up to 300 juvenile SONCC coho salmon

and 300 juvenile NC steelhead for the purpose of applying acoustic tags and collecting tissue samples by fin clip; (3) non-lethal capture (backpack electrofishing, beach seining, or fyke net) and release of up to 100 juvenile SONCC coho salmon and 100 juvenile NC steelhead for the purpose of applying acoustic tags, collecting tissue samples by fin clip and muscle biopsy; (4) non-lethal capture, tissue sampling, and release of up to 220 adult NC steelhead captured while operating the resistance board weir; (6) non-lethal observation of up to 400 adult NC steelhead on camera or sonar while operating the resistance board weir; (7) non-lethal observation of up to 30 juvenile NC steelhead during snorkel and diving surveys; and (8) non-lethal capture and release of up to 16 juvenile NC steelhead while boat electrofishing, beach seining, active gillnetting, and hook-and-line methods. The potential annual unintentional lethal take of SONCC coho salmon, CC Chinook salmon and NC steelhead expected to result from the proposed research and enhancement activities in the South Fork Eel River is up to 12 juvenile SONCC coho salmon, 4 juvenile CC Chinook salmon, 17 juvenile NC steelhead, and one adult NC steelhead.

The following activities will occur in the Van Duzen River annually:

July 1–October 31: Biweekly—spearfishing, seining, active gillnetting, hook- and-line, snorkeling

The annual sum of take requested across the various components of this effort in the Van Duzen River are as follows: (1) non-lethal observation of up to 750 juvenile NC steelhead during snorkel and diving surveys; (2) non-lethal capture and release of up to 35 juvenile NC steelhead while beach seining, active gillnetting, and hook-and-line methods. The potential annual unintentional lethal NC steelhead take expected to result from the proposed enhancement activities in the Van Duzen River is up to 3 juvenile NC steelhead.

The following activities will occur in the Lower Eel River annually:

June 15–August 31: Biweekly—spearfishing, seining, active gillnetting, hook-and-line, snorkeling

The annual sum of take requested across the various components of this effort in the Lower Eel River are as follows: (1) non-lethal observation of up to 100 juvenile SONCC coho salmon, 750 juvenile CC Chinook salmon, and 750 juvenile NC steelhead during snorkel and diving surveys; (2) non-lethal capture and release of up to 3 juvenile SONCC coho salmon, 3

juvenile CC Chinook salmon, and 35 juvenile NC steelhead while beach seining, active gillnetting, and hook-and-line methods. The potential annual unintentional lethal SONCC coho salmon, CC Chinook salmon, and NC steelhead take expected to result from the proposed enhancement activities in the Lower Eel River is up to 3 juvenile SONCC coho salmon, 3 juvenile CC Chinook salmon, and 3 juvenile NC steelhead.

This proposed scientific research and enhancement effort is expected to enhance survival and support recovery within the SONCC ESU of coho salmon, CC ESU of Chinook salmon, and the NC DPS of steelhead and is consistent with recommendations and objectives outlined in NMFS' Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast ESU Coho Salmon Recovery Plan and Coastal Multispecies Recovery Plan. See the Permit 22270–2R application for greater details on the various components of this scientific research and enhancement effort including the specific scientific methods proposed and take allotments requested for each.

Dated: January 12, 2023.

**Angela Somma,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023–00915 Filed 1–18–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC688]

#### Endangered Species; File No: 26645

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of a permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) (No. 26645) to the Arnold Irrigation District, Central Oregon Irrigation District, Lone Pine Irrigation District, North Unit Irrigation District, Ochoco Irrigation District, Swalley Irrigation District, Three Sisters Irrigation District, Tumalo Irrigation District, and the City of Prineville (hereafter applicants), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, for the incidental take of Middle Columbia River (MCR) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), listed threatened under the ESA, and the nonessential experimental population of

steelhead (NEP) occurring upstream of the Round Butte Dam and Deschutes River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) which are not currently listed under the ESA (hereafter, covered species). Incidental take is associated with the otherwise lawful water management activities including the storage, release, diversion, and return of irrigation water by the eight irrigation districts and groundwater withdrawals, effluent discharges, and surface water diversions by the City of Prineville. The permit is issued for a duration of 28 years.

**ADDRESSES:** The record of decision, findings, biological opinion and other related documents are available on the NMFS West Coast Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/habitat-conservation/habitat-conservation-plans-west-coast>. The draft and final environmental impact statement and public comments are available on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/deschutes-hcp>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Scott Carlon (phone: 971–322–7436 or email: [scott.carlon@noaa.gov](mailto:scott.carlon@noaa.gov) or Celeste Stout (phone: 301–427–8436 or email: [cleste.stout@noaa.gov](mailto:cleste.stout@noaa.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

On August 30, 2019, NMFS received an application for an ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit for activities pertaining to irrigation and municipal water management in the Deschutes River basin, Oregon. Included with the application was the draft Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) collectively developed by eight irrigation districts (Arnold, Central Oregon, Lone Pine, North Unit, Ochoco, Swalley, Three Sisters, and Tumalo Irrigation Districts) and the City of Prineville. Activities covered under the HCP would occur in Klamath, Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook, Wasco, and Sherman Counties, Oregon. The applicants also applied with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for incidental take of bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*).

Issuing an ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit constitutes a Federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) as implemented by 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 and NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A, Compliance with the NEPA (2016). For this action, USFWS is the lead agency under NEPA and NMFS is a cooperating agency. As the lead agency, the USFWS

published a notice of availability (NOA) of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in the **Federal Register** on October 4, 2019 (84 FR 53164), and published a NOA of the Final EIS with the USFWS on November 6, 2020 (85 FR 71086). USFWS received numerous comments on the Draft EIS, which were considered by both USFWS and NMFS. These comments were addressed as changes to the Final EIS. All alternatives were described in detail, evaluated, and analyzed in the Draft and Final EIS. NMFS found that issuing the ITP would have a significant impact on the quality of the environment and adopted the USFWS' EIS through its own NEPA process (40 CFR 1506.3). NMFS determined that the EIS considered a range of reasonable alternatives and fully evaluated the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts likely to result from the authorization of ITPs issued by both the NMFS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for this HCP.

All eight irrigation districts are quasi-municipal corporations formed and operated according to Oregon State law to distribute water to irrigators (patrons) within designated geographic boundaries and in accordance with the individual water rights held by those patrons. The City of Prineville operates City-owned infrastructure and provides essential services—including public safety, municipal water supply, and sewage treatment—for more than 9,000 residents. The applicants determined that continued operation of irrigation and essential services requires incidental take permits to address unavoidable take of the covered species.

#### Conservation Plan

Section 10 of the ESA requires an applicant to submit an adequate conservation plan. The applicants proposed a conservation program to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of taking MCR steelhead, the NEP of steelhead, and sockeye salmon (covered species). The activities covered by the HCP cause changes in surface water hydrology that alter the quantity and quality of aquatic habitats for listed species. The covered activities modify the timing and magnitude of flow in the Deschutes River and a number of its tributaries through the storage, release, diversion, and return of irrigation water. In most cases, the hydrologic changes resulting from irrigation activities have adverse impacts on aquatic habitats for the covered species. When flows are reduced, the total area of usable habitat for aquatic species generally decreases and water temperatures typically increase to the extent that habitat quality is negatively impacted. These