

minimum restoration actions, the abundance and productivity of these three populations are expected to increase considerably over the baseline.

Coordination/Governance

Coordination of actions and information-sharing among fisheries biologists, Tribes, local governments, citizen groups, and state and Federal agencies based in both Oregon and Washington is a key component of recovery for this DPS. Benefits of coordination include:

- Dealing with shared migration areas consistently
- Developing coherent MPG-level strategies where populations are in two states (Cascades Eastern Slope MPG; Umatilla/Walla Walla MPG), or the same population is in both states (Walla Walla population)
- Promoting consistent methods for setting recovery objectives, evaluating strategies, and monitoring progress across populations, MPGs, and the DPS

This coordination is under development. The recent creation of the Middle Columbia Recovery Forum, to be convened regularly by NMFS, is intended to facilitate such collaboration between scientists and recovery planners on both sides of the Columbia River. The Plan describes in more detail the proposed roles and responsibilities.

Research, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management

The Plan identifies the many knowledge gaps and uncertainties involved in designing recovery actions for Middle Columbia steelhead. Because the proposed recovery actions are based on hypotheses about the relationships between fish, limiting factors, human activities, and the environment, the Plan recommends research and monitoring to determine progress in recovery. Monitoring is the basis for adaptive management -- the process of adjusting management actions and/or directions based on new information. Research, monitoring, and adaptive management will be built into the implementation plans for each management unit plan, after this Plan is approved.

Public Reviews

The ESA requires that, at least every 5 years, the Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a review of all ESA-listed species and determine whether any species should: (1) be removed from such list; (2) be changed in status from an endangered species to a threatened species; or (3) be changed in status from a threatened species to an endangered species. Accordingly, at five-year intervals, NMFS will conduct reviews of

the Middle Columbia steelhead DPS. These reviews will consider information that has become available since the most recent listing determinations, and make recommendations whether there is substantial information to suggest that a change in listing status may be warranted. If an ESU or DPS may warrant a change in status NMFS will conduct a formal, much more in-depth, ESA status review consistent with section 4(a) of the Act. Any formal status reviews will be based on the NMFS Listing Status Decision Framework and will be informed by the information obtained through implementation of the monitoring, research, and evaluation programs in each management unit plan and the recovery modules. Similarly, new information considered during the five-year reviews may also compel more in-depth assessments of implementation and effectiveness monitoring and associated research to inform adaptive management decisions at the management unit and module level.

Conclusion

NMFS has reviewed the Plan, the public comments, and the conclusions of the ICTRT from its reviews of the Plan. Based on that review, NMFS concludes that the Plan meets the requirements in section 4(f) of the ESA for developing a recovery plan.

Literature Cited

ICTRT (Interior Columbia Technical Recovery Team). 2007. Viability Criteria for Application to Interior Columbia Basin Salmonid ESUs. Review draft March 2007. Available at: www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/trt/trt_viability.cfm

ICTRT (Interior Columbia Technical Recovery Team). 2008. Current Status Reviews: Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead ESUs. Volume III: Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS). Draft, May 9, 2008.

McClure, M.M., E.E. Holmes, B.L. Sanderson, and C.E. Jordan. 2003. A large-scale, multispecies status assessment: Anadromous salmonids in the Columbia River basin. *Ecological Applications* 13(4):964–989.

McElhany, P., M.H. Ruckelshaus, M.J. Ford, T.C. Wainwright, and E.P. Bjorkstedt. 2000. Viable salmon populations and the recovery of evolutionarily significant units. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo., NMFS NWFSC 42, 156p. Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2008. Recovery Plan Module for Mainstem Columbia River

Hydropower Projects ("Hydro Module"). NMFS Northwest Region. Portland, Oregon.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2007. Columbia River Estuary ESA Recovery Plan Module for Salmon and Steelhead. November 5, 2007.

Available at www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/ESA-Recovery-Plans/Estuary-Module.cfm

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2008. Endangered Species Act - Section 7 Consultation Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Consultation: consultation on remand for operation of the Columbia River Power System and 19 Bureau of Reclamation Projects in the Columbia Basin ("FCRPS BiOp"). NMFS, Portland, Oregon.

Dated: September 22, 2009.

Angela Somma,

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

[FR Doc. E9-23604 Filed 9-29-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XR72

Endangered Species; File No. 10022

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Raymond Carthy, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, P.O. Box 110485, Gainesville, Florida 32611-0450, has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 10022.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before October 30, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The modification request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular modification request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 10022-01.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Opay or Amy Hapeman, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification to Permit No. 10022, issued on April 29, 2008 (73 FR 23195) is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Permit No. 10022 authorizes the permit holder to conduct research off the northwest coast of Florida for 5 years. Researchers may capture up to 40 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), 600 green (*Chelonia mydas*), and 110 Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles using strike-net or set-net capture techniques. Animals may be weighed, measured, photographed, skin biopsied, flipper and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagged, and released. The permit holder requests authorization to use satellite telemetry to assess habitat use of sea turtles and study whether relocation distances for sea turtles captured in relocation trawlers are appropriate. The permit holder would attach transmitters to up to 12 green sea turtles captured by their project by research nets in St. Joseph Bay, Apalachicola Bay, and St. Andrews Bay. The permit holder would also attach transmitters to up to 25 green, hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's ridley, and loggerhead sea turtles (any combination) already legally captured by relocation trawlers in the St. Andrews Bay area. These animals would also be flipper and PIT tagged, measured, photographed, tissue

sampled and weighed before release. The activities authorized by the modification would occur over the course of the permit through April 30, 2013.

Dated: September 24, 2009.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E9-23605 Filed 9-29-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XR89

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings and hearings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 102nd Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and 146th Council meetings to take recommendations and action on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

DATES: The 102nd SSC Meeting will be held October 14-16, 2009, and the 146th Council meeting will be held October 20-23, 2009. All meetings will be held in Honolulu, HI. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The SSC meetings will be held at the Council Office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813, telephone: (808) 522-8220. The Council Meeting will be held at the Laniakea YWCA-Fuller Hall, 1040 Richards Street, Honolulu, HI 96813, telephone: (808) 538-7061.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In addition to the agenda items listed here, the SSC and Council will hear recommendations from Council advisory groups. Public comment periods will be provided throughout the agendas. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Schedule and Agenda for 102nd SSC Meeting

8:30 a.m., Wednesday October 14, 2009

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Draft Agenda and Assignment of Rapporteurs
3. Status of the 101st SSC Meeting Recommendations
4. Report from the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Director
5. Program Planning
 - A. Update on Catch Shares Task Force
 - B. Habitat
 1. Habitat Assessment and Improvement Plan
 2. Report on Deep-Slope Habitat Workshop
 3. Review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC)
 - C. Public Hearing
 - D. Discussion and Recommendations
6. Insular Fisheries
 - A. Hawaii Archipelago
 1. Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review (WPSAR) of Hawaii bottomfish
 2. Haleiwa Shark Viewing Tour
 - Research
 3. Larval Dispersal Model
 - B. Recommendations on Acceptable Biological Catches for Insular Stocks (Action)
 - C. Public Hearing
 - D. Discussion and Recommendations

8:30 a.m., Thursday October 15, 2009

7. Pelagic Fisheries
 - A. Longline Management
 1. Recommendations on Tuna Quota Management (Action)
 2. Recommendations on Territory Bigeye Longline Quotas (Action)
 - B. Non-Longline Management
 1. Social and economic aspects of Hawaii's small boat fisheries
 2. Cross Seamount Total Allowable Catch
 3. Main Hawaiian Islands shortline management
 - C. Update on Blue Shark Stock Assessment
 - D. Hawaii Longline Shark Bycatch Information
 - E. American Samoa and Hawaii Longline Quarterly Reports
 - F. International Fisheries/Meetings
 1. Stock Assessments
 - a. Western & Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) Bigeye Tuna
 - b. WCPO Yellowfin Tuna
 - c. South Pacific Albacore Tuna
 - d. North Pacific Swordfish Tuna
 1. Report of the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Science Committee
 2. Report of the WCPFC Northern Committee
 3. Report of the WCPFC Technical & Compliance Committee