

2013 Annual Determination

NMFS is providing notification that the agency will not identify additional fisheries to observe for the 2013 AD, pursuant to its authority under the ESA.

NMFS is not identifying additional fisheries at this time given lack of resources to implement new or expand existing observer programs to focus on sea turtles (50 CFR 222.402(a)(4)). Fisheries identified in the 2010 AD (see

Table 1) remain on the AD and are therefore required to carry observers upon NMFS' request until December 31, 2014. NMFS did not identify additional fisheries to observe in the 2011 AD or in the 2012 AD.

TABLE 1—STATE AND FEDERAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES INCLUDED ON THE ANNUAL DETERMINATION

Fishery	Years Eligible to Carry Observers
<i>Trawl Fisheries</i>	
Atlantic shellfish bottom trawl	2010–2014
Mid-Atlantic bottom trawl	2010–2014
Mid-Atlantic mid-water trawl (including pair trawl)	2010–2014
Southeastern U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl	2010–2014
<i>Gillnet Fisheries</i>	
CA halibut, white seabass and other species set gillnet (>3.5 in mesh)	2010–2014
CA yellowtail, barracuda, and white seabass drift gillnet (mesh size >3.5 in. and <14 in.)	2010–2014
Chesapeake Bay inshore gillnet	2010–2014
Long Island inshore gillnet	2010–2014
Mid-Atlantic gillnet	2010–2014
North Carolina inshore gillnet	2010–2014
Northeast sink gillnet	2010–2014
Southeast Atlantic gillnet	2010–2014
<i>Trap/Pot Fisheries</i>	
Atlantic blue crab trap/pot	2010–2014
Atlantic mixed species trap/pot	2010–2014
Northeast/mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot	2010–2014
<i>Pound Net/Weir/Seine Fisheries</i>	
Mid-Atlantic haul/beach seine	2010–2014
Mid-Atlantic menhaden purse seine	2010–2014
U.S. mid-Atlantic mixed species stop seine/weir/pound net (except the NC roe mullet stop net)	2010–2014
Virginia pound net	2010–2014

Dated: December 18, 2012.

Helen M. Golde,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Science Advisory Board**

[Docket Number: 121129666–2666–01]

RIN 0648–XC378

Notice of Availability of Draft Report of the NOAA Research and Development Portfolio Review Task Force and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for public comment.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. App.

SUMMARY: NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) publishes this notice on behalf of the

NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) to announce the availability of the draft report of the SAB Research and Development Portfolio Review Task Force (PRTF) for public comment.

DATES: Comments on this draft report must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 23, 2013.

ADDRESSES: The Draft Report of the PRTF will be available on the NOAA Science Advisory Board Web site at: <http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Reports/prtf.html>.

The public is encouraged to submit comments electronically to noaa.sab.comments@noaa.gov. For individuals who do not have access to the Internet, comments may be submitted in writing to: NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) c/o Dr. Cynthia Decker, 1315 East-West Highway-R/SAB, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway-R/SAB, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301–734–1156, Fax: 301–734–1459) during normal business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or visit the NOAA SAB Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

For general information about the PRTF please visit the SAB Web site: http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Working_Groups/current/SAB%20R&D%20PRTF%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20Final%2005–09–12.pdf. **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SAB is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with the responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of NOAA on long- and short-term strategies for research, education, and application of science to resource management and environmental assessment and prediction. The PRTF is a subcommittee of the SAB. The PRTF is charged with providing recommendations on NOAA's current and future scientific research; this draft report was prepared in response to a NOAA request in November 2011 for the SAB to conduct a needs-based review and prioritization of NOAA's research and development (R&D) portfolio. The PRTF's review was to include identification of gaps and areas appropriate for consolidation with ongoing efforts strongly linked to NOAA's current Strategic Plan. NOAA, the SAB, and the PRTF recognize the high likelihood of constrained financial resources in the coming years and believe the PRTF's review will provide

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