

The purpose of the research is to monitor (using radio telemetry) juvenile fish movement, distribution, behavior, and survival in the Columbia River. The research would benefit listed salmonids by providing information on spill effectiveness, forebay residence times, and guidance efficiency under various flow regimes that would allow Federal resource managers to adjust bypass/collection structures and thereby optimize downriver migrant survival at the hydropower projects.

#### *Permit 1322 Modification 2*

The NWFSC is requesting that NMFS modify Permit 1322 to increase the annual number of listed fish taken in its research. Under the modification, the NWFSC would increase its annual take of juvenile threatened SR spring/summer chinook salmon (natural and artificially propagated); threatened SR fall chinook salmon; endangered UCR chinook salmon (natural and artificially propagated); threatened LCR chinook salmon, threatened UWR chinook salmon, and threatened CR chum salmon while conducting research in the Columbia River estuary. The NWFSC proposes to capture, handle, and release listed salmonids, and while most of the fish would be unharmed, some would die during the course of the research and a small number of them would be intentionally killed. Purse seines, trap nets, and beach seines would be used to capture the fish. Captured fish would be anesthetized, identified, sampled for tissues, and measured. Some fish would be sacrificed to confirm species identification, catch composition, food habits, and timing of estuarine entry. The NWFSC is also requesting an increase in the number of fish that may unintentionally be killed during the research.

The purposes of the research are to (1) determine the presence and abundance of fall and spring chinook salmon, coho salmon, and chum salmon in the estuary and Lower Columbia River; (2) determine the relationship between juvenile salmon and Lower Columbia River estuarine habitat; and (3) obtain information about flow change, sediment input, and habitat availability for the development of a numerical model. The research would benefit listed fish by serving as a basis for estuarine restoration and preservation plans. The NWFSC requests authorization to transfer fish tissue samples to the University of Washington, College of Ocean and Fisheries, School of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences; Oregon State University, Hatfield Marine Science

Center; and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

#### *Permit 1376 Modification 1*

The University of Washington (UW) is requesting that NMFS modify Permit 1376 to increase the number of threatened, juvenile and adult natural PS chinook salmon they can take annually during research conducted in Lakes Sammamish and Washington in Washington State. Permit 1376 was originally issued on July 31, 2002 (67 FR 17970). It authorized the UW to take threatened, juvenile natural PS chinook salmon in a study designed to illuminate food web interactions, identify sources of mortality, and determine the energetic requirements to sustain fish and zooplankton communities in each lake. The UW proposes to capture (using gillnets, trawls, hook-and-line, trot lines, minnow traps, beach seines, and backpack electrofishing equipment), anesthetize, handle, measure, weigh, examine the stomach contents using non-lethal evacuation, and release juvenile PS chinook salmon. The UW does not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small number would die as a result of the research activities.

The study would help researchers identify and quantify factors limiting juvenile salmon (and other species') survival and growth. The increased take levels would help the UW gain more information on the prevalence and role of chinook salmon residualizing in this unique, lake-dominated watershed.

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 decision 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: March 28, 2003.

**Phil Williams,**

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

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 092898B]

### **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 to modify an existing scientific research/enhancement permit (1097) and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received an application for a permit modification from Cressey and Associates in El Cerrito, CA (1097). The modified permit would affect two Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of salmonids identified in the

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document. This document serves to notify the public of the availability of the permit modification application for review and comment before a final approval or disapproval is made by NMFS.

**DATES:** Written comments on the permit application must be received no later than 5 p.m. Daylight Savings Time on May 2, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the modification request should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment: For permit 1097: Daniel Logan, Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 6528 (ph: 707 575 6053, fax: 707 578 3435). Documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 3226 (301 713 1401).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel Logan at phone number 707-575-6053, or e-mail: [dan.logan@noaa.gov](mailto:dan.logan@noaa.gov).

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Authority**

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2)