

(UCR); threatened natural and artificially propagated SR spring/summer (S/S); threatened SR fall; threatened lower Columbia River (LCR); threatened artificially produced Puget Sound (PS); threatened upper Willamette River (UWR).

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): threatened Columbia River (CR).

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): endangered natural and artificially propagated UCR; threatened SR; threatened middle Columbia River (MCR); threatened LCR.

Coho Salmon (*O. kisutch*): threatened Oregon coast (OC).

Authority

Scientific research 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 222–226). NMFS issues permits/modifications based on findings that such permits and modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permit; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policy of 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 an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA.

Permit Applications Received

Permit 1119

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is seeking a 5-year permit covering five studies that, among them, would annually take adult and juvenile endangered UCR spring chinook salmon (natural and artificially propagated) and adult and juvenile endangered UCR steelhead (natural and artificially propagated) at various points in the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow, Okanogan, and Yakima River watersheds and other points in eastern Washington State. The research was originally conducted under Permit 1119, which was in place for 5 years (63 FR 27055) with two amendments (65 FR 11288, 66 FR 38641); it expired on December 31, 2002. Over the years, there have been some changes in the research and they are reflected in this proposal (e.g., the aforementioned amendments), nonetheless, the proposed projects are largely continuations of ongoing research. They are: Study 1–Recovery of

ESA-listed Entiat River Salmonids through Improved Management Actions; Study 2–From extirpation to colonization: an attempt to restore salmon back to their former streams; Study 3–Entiat Basin Spawning Ground Surveys; Study 4–Snorkel Surveys in the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow, Okanogan, and Yakima Watersheds and Other Waterways of Eastern Washington; Study; 5–Fish Salvage Activities in the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow, Okanogan, and Yakima Watersheds and other Waterways of Eastern Washington. Under these studies, listed adult and juvenile salmon would be variously (a) captured (using nets, traps, and electrofishing equipment) and anesthetized; (b) sampled for biological information and tissue samples; (c) tagged with passive integrated transponders (PIT tags) or other identifiers; and (e) released.

The research has many purposes and would benefit listed salmon and steelhead in different ways. In general, the purpose of the research is to (a) gain current information on the status and productivity of various fish populations (to be used in determining the effectiveness of restoration programs); (b) collect data on the how well artificial propagation programs are helping salmon recovery efforts (looking at hatchery and wild fish interactions); (c) support the aquatic species restoration goals found in several regional plans; and (d) fulfill ESA requirements for several fish hatcheries. The fish would benefit through improved recovery actions, better designs for hatchery supplementation programs, and by being rescued outright when they are stranded by low flows in Eastern Washington streams. The USFWS does not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small percentage may die as an unintended result of the research activities.

Permit 1194

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) in Seattle, WA is requesting a 5-year permit to annually take adult endangered UCR steelhead, adult endangered UCR spring chinook salmon, and adult threatened SR spring/summer chinook salmon during a study designed to evaluate passive integrated transponder tag (PIT) interrogation systems at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River. Permit 1194 has been in place for almost 5 years and is due to expire on December 31, 2003. The NWFSC proposes to continue to capture (using traps at Bonneville Dam), anesthetize, tag, release, and monitor with video cameras adult fish.

The objectives of the study are to evaluate the ability of the prototype tag detection systems to detect PIT-tagged adult salmon passing through the facility and evaluate the effects of the detection system on adult behavior as they approach and pass through it. The NWFSC does not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small percentage may die as an unintended result of the research activities.

Permit 1335–Modification 2

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) in Corvallis, OR requests that Permit 1335 be modified to allow them to increase annual takes of juvenile endangered UCR chinook (artificially propagated); juvenile threatened LCR chinook salmon; juvenile threatened UWR chinook salmon; juvenile threatened PS chinook (artificially propagated); juvenile endangered UCR steelhead (artificially propagated); juvenile threatened LCR steelhead; juvenile threatened UWR steelhead; juvenile threatened OC coho salmon; and juvenile threatened SONCC coho salmon in selected stream systems in the Columbia, Puget Sound, and Oregon Coast basins. The USFS proposes to capture (using backpack electrofishing), anesthetize, measure, and release listed salmonids.

The purposes of the study are to assess watershed conditions and factors limiting salmonid health and production, and evaluate watershed health under the Northwest Forest Plan. The activities will benefit listed fish by generating information to improve forest management. The USFS does not intend to kill any of the listed fish being captured, but a small percentage may die as an unintended result of the research activities.

Permit 1366–Modification 1

The Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (OCFWRU) and the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife research Unit (ICFWRU) are requesting a 5-year permit covering four studies that, among them, would annually take juvenile threatened SR fall chinook salmon; juvenile threatened SR spring/summer chinook salmon (natural and artificially propagated); juvenile endangered UCR spring chinook salmon (natural and artificially propagated); juvenile threatened LCR chinook salmon; juvenile endangered UCR steelhead (natural and artificially propagated); juvenile threatened SR steelhead; and adult and juvenile endangered SR sockeye salmon at various dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The research is largely a continuation of four ongoing studies