

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) are covered in the permit:

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*): endangered Upper Columbia River.

Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*): endangered Upper Columbia River spring run.

Notice of the proposed actions addressed in permit 1395 was published on August 1, 2002 (67 FR 49906). A public meeting was held in Wenatchee, WA, on August 27, 2002. Permit 1395 authorizes the WDFW, the Chelan PUD, and the Douglas PUD to carry out artificial propagation programs for the enhancement of listed upper Columbia River steelhead. The enhancement programs authorized under permit 1395 are designed to supplement the natural spawning populations of upper Columbia River steelhead in the Wenatchee River, Methow River, and Okanogan River basins and compensate for inundation and unavoidable fish passage losses at Rock Island, Rocky Reach and Wells dams on the mainstem Columbia River as provided in three Habitat Conservation Plans.

Additionally, it authorizes the WDFW to manage adult hatchery steelhead returns that are surplus to recovery and broodstock needs. After evaluating the potential effects of issuing this permit on listed salmon and steelhead in the Upper Columbia River ESUs and the environmental consequences, NMFS issued the permit with conditions authorizing takes of the ESA-listed anadromous fish species. NMFS' conditions will ensure that the takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild. The permit expires October 2, 2013.

Notice of the proposed actions addressed in permit 1396 was published on August 1, 2002 (67 FR 49906). A public meeting was held in Wenatchee, WA on August 27, 2002. Permit 1396 authorizes the USFWS to carry out artificial propagation programs for the enhancement of listed upper Columbia River steelhead in the Methow River basin. The enhancement program authorized under permit 1396 is intended to mitigate for fish losses due to Grand Coulee Dam construction and supplement the natural spawning population in the Methow River. After evaluating the potential effects of issuing this permit on listed salmon and

steelhead in the Upper Columbia River ESUs and the environmental consequences, NMFS issued the permit with conditions authorizing takes of the ESA-listed anadromous fish species. NMFS' conditions will ensure that the takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild. The permit expires October 2, 2008.

Notice of proposed actions addressed in permit 1412 was published on January 14, 2003 (68 FR 1826). Permit 1412 authorizes the Colville Tribes to carry out artificial propagation programs for the enhancement of listed upper Columbia River steelhead in the Okanogan River basin. The enhancement program authorized under permit 1412 is designed to supplement and restore natural spawning of steelhead in Omak Creek, in the Okanogan River basin. After evaluating the potential effects of issuing this permit on listed salmon and steelhead in the Upper Columbia River ESUs and the environmental consequences, NMFS issued the permit with conditions authorizing takes of the ESA-listed anadromous fish species. NMFS' conditions will ensure that the takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild. The permit expires October 2, 2003.

Issuance of these permits, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that the permits: (1) were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. These permits were issued in accordance with, and are subject to, 50 CFR part 222, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

Dated: December 8, 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. 120103E]

### Endangered Species; File No. 1375

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for modification

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Thomas J. Kwak, U.S. Geological Survey, North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Box 7617, 201 David Clark Labs, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695-7617, has requested a modification to scientific research permit no. 1375.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before January 12, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The modification request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

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, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320.

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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Jefferies or Ruth Johnson, (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject modification to Permit No. 1375, issued on March 27, 2003 (68 FR 16002) 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 parts 222-226).

Permit No. 1375 authorized the permit holder to deploy 1,000 hatchery-reared juvenile shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) in cages at 10 test sites within the Roanoke/Albemarle River system for 28 days. The fish were then supposed to be euthanized and their tissue analyzed for contaminants.