

(river mile 206). Rotary screw-trap (RST) operations have been on-going at the GCID fish screen by the State of California from 1991 through 2009. GCID proposes continuous monitoring operations by RST, and the capture, identification and enumeration of fish to species. A subsample of 30 captured salmon will be anesthetized, measured, revived and released downstream from the trapping location. GCID anticipates an annual non-lethal take of up to 4,000 natural and 500 hatchery juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon (with an estimated 1 percent non-intentional mortality), 1,000 natural and 500 hatchery juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon (with an estimated 1 percent non-intentional mortality), 500 natural and 500 hatchery juvenile steelhead (with an estimated 1 percent non-intentional mortality), and 50 natural juvenile southern DPS green sturgeon (including an estimated .02 percent non-intentional mortality).

The University of California at Davis (UCD) requests a five-year permit (15926) for the possession and genotyping (single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analyses) of Sacramento River winter-run and Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead tissues currently maintained in the California Department of Fish and Game Salmonid Tissue Archive and those to be collected in future non-lethal agency and research trapping activities. UCD anticipates possession of natural and hatchery-origin fish tissues representative of salmonid populations throughout the Central Valley, California. The results of this study will contribute to the genetic management and hatchery operations regarding Chinook salmon and steelhead reintroductions to the upper San Joaquin River system, with a focus on potential natural recolonization and effective population size of spring-run populations and a broad genetic diversity assessment.

The Natural Resource Scientists, Incorporated (NRSI) requests a 2-year permit (16083) for take of juvenile Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, and southern DPS of green sturgeon while conducting site-specific research at five irrigation diversion outfall sites within the Sacramento River and Delta system, California. Entrained fish will be collected via fyke net, and sampled from March through January of each year to encompass the primary irrigation season. The research is part of an on-going investigation into developing criteria for prioritizing fish

screening projects, and will correlate fish entrainment with the physical, hydraulic, and habitat variables at each diversion site. All fish will be identified as to species, enumerated, measured for length, and placed back into the canals; all entrained fish captured live will be returned to the river. Sampling at each diversion site will be performed continuously from March 1 through January 31 during the study period. NRSI requests authorization for an estimated annual non-lethal take of 1,227 juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon, 1,341 juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon, 150 juvenile steelhead, and 145 juvenile green sturgeon. No indirect mortality is anticipated during fish capture and sampling activities carried out for the study.

Dated: December 9, 2010.

Therese Conant,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Science Advisory Board; Notice of Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the NOAA Science Advisory Board. The members will discuss and provide advice on issues outlined in the agenda below.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for: Wednesday, December 22 from 11–12 p.m. Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: Conference call. Public access is available at: NOAA, SSMC 3, Room 12836, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, Rm. 11230, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-734-1156, Fax: 301-713-1459, E-mail: Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the

only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information services. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

Matters To Be Considered: The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Date and Time: Wednesday, December 22, 2010, 11 a.m.–12 p.m. Eastern Time.

Agenda

1. Consideration of the Report from the External Review of the Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystem Research.

Dated: December 9, 2010.

Mark E. Brown,

Chief Financial Officer-Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2010-31399 Filed 12-14-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA085

Endangered Species; File No. 14400

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001 [Responsible Party: Daniel Richards] has been issued a permit to take black abalone for purposes of scientific research and enhancement.

ADDRESSES: The permit 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 Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore or Colette Cairns, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 27, 2009, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 43679) that a request for a scientific research and enhancement permit to take black abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*) had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 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).

This permit authorizes the continued monitoring of black abalone, a species listed as endangered on February 13, 2009. The objective of this monitoring is to identify population trends through population counts and size distribution measurements. Monitoring would consist of only non-lethal take to measure abalone, and at selected sites, tag some individuals to determine survivorship and growth. This permit is valid for five years.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) Was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered or threatened species, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: December 9, 2010.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

[FR Doc. 2010-31520 Filed 12-14-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA063

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Columbia River Crossing Project, Washington and Oregon

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for letter of authorization; request for comments and information.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the Department of Transportation's

Federal Transit Authority (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), on behalf of the Columbia River Crossing project (CRC), for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to bridge construction and demolition activities at the Columbia River and North Portland Harbor, Washington and Oregon, over the course of five years; approximately July 2013 through June 2018. Pursuant to regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is announcing receipt of CRC's request for the development and implementation of regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals and inviting information, suggestions, and comments on CRC's application and request.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than January 14, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is ITP.Laws@noaa.gov. Comments sent via e-mail, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ben Laws, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability

A copy of CRC's application may be obtained by writing to the address specified above (*see ADDRESSES*), telephoning the contact listed above (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*), or visiting the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications>.

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) if certain findings are made and regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings may be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have

an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for certain subsistence uses, and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such taking are set forth.

NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as "an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival." Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines "harassment" as:

Any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A harassment]; or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering [Level B harassment].

Summary of Request

On November 22, 2010, NMFS received a complete application from CRC requesting authorization for take of three species of marine mammals incidental to construction and demolition activities in the Columbia River and North Portland Harbor, Washington and Oregon. Portions of the project are anticipated to potentially last until March 2021; CRC has requested regulations to be effective for the period of five years from approximately July 2013 through June 2018. Marine mammals would be exposed to various operations, including noise from pile driving, demolition of existing structures, and the presence of construction-related vessels. Because the specified activities have the potential to take marine mammals present within the action area, CRC requests authorization to take, by Level B harassment, Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), and harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*).

Specified Activities

CRC is proposing a multimodal transportation project along a 5-mile section of the I-5 corridor connecting Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon, including the following activities:

- Replacement of the existing Columbia River bridges with two new structures;
- Widening of the existing North Portland Harbor Bridge, and construction of three new structures across the harbor; and