

*Form Number(s):* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0648-0460.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission.

*Burden Hours:* 1,739.

*Number of Respondents:* 13,350.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 10 minutes for a registration and 15 minutes to mark buoys.

*Needs and Uses:* This program for the Pacific halibut subsistence fishery includes requirements for registration to participate in the fishery, and the marking of certain types of gear used in this fishery. The registration requirement is intended to allow qualified persons to practice the long-term customary and traditional harvest of Pacific halibut for food in a non-commercial manner. The gear-marking requirement aids in enforcement and in actions related to gear damage or loss. The registration information may be submitted by an individual or as a list of multiple individuals from an Alaska Native tribe. Submissions may be made by mail, FAX, e-mail, or on-line.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

*Frequency:* On occasion, every 2 or 4 years.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

*OMB Desk Officer:* David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number 202-395-7285, or [David\\_Rostker@omb.eop.gov](mailto:David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: October 14, 2003.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-26399 Filed 10-17-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 030905221-3249-02]

#### National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring; Final Certification of No Degradation of Service for the Closure of One Weather Service Office (WSO)

**AGENCY:** National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On September 26, 2003, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere certified that closure of the Meridian, Mississippi, Weather Service Office (WSO) will not cause a degradation in service to the affected service area. On September 26, 2003, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere transmitted to Congress notice of approval of the closure certification for WSO Meridian, Mississippi. Public Law 102-567 requires final certifications be published in the **Federal Register**. This notice satisfies that requirement.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the final certification packages should be sent to John Sokich, Room 11426, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Sokich, 301-713-0258.

Dated: October 14, 2003.

**John E. Jones,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-KE-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100703A]

#### Endangered Species; Permit No. 1123

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

**ACTION:** Scientific research permit modification.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that requests for modifications of scientific research permits No. 1123 submitted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Edgard O. Espinoza, Primary Investigator),

Office of Law Enforcement, National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, 1490 East Main Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520, have been granted.

**ADDRESSES:** The modifications 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, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Jefferies or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The requested modifications have been granted under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the provisions of § 222.306 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222-226).

NFWFL is authorized to possess samples of ESA-listed non-marine mammal and non-reptilian species under NMFS jurisdiction associated with genetic research studies and support of law enforcement actions. Law enforcement personnel have an ongoing need for scientific assistance in cases concerning endangered, protected, and managed marine species. The Fish and Wildlife Forensics Center provides technical/scientific assistance to a variety of law enforcement agencies including NMFS Enforcement, US Customs, US Fish and Wildlife Service as well as state wildlife enforcement agencies. Forensics analyses generally involve a biochemical or genetic test when a comparison is made between evidence and voucher samples. Voucher samples which are used in a forensics analysis are collected and maintained under strict criteria that includes documentation (species identification form) from the expert who has authenticated the samples; a chain of custody which originates with the sample collection; and storage under secure conditions. The issuance of this modification will extend the authorized activities through December 31, 2004.

Issuance of these modifications, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permits: (1) Were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of these permits; and (3) are consistent