

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an EA; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA announces its intention to prepare an EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), for the proposed relocation of NOAA/OAR facilities in Oak Ridge, TN.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 5, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on suggested alternatives and potential impacts should be sent to Barbara Shifflett, Management and Program Analyst, NOAA/ATDD, PO Box 2456, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. Comments may also be submitted via facsimile to 865-220-1733 or by email to Barbara.Shifflett@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action would involve relocation of NOAA/OAR offices and laboratories within the Oak Ridge, TN area to a larger, modern facility located in an appropriate research setting. The Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Division (ATDD), located in Oak Ridge, TN, is part of NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory (ARL). Research conducted at this laboratory includes experimental and theoretical research on air quality issues, urban dispersion studies and in-situ testbed development, and land-atmosphere interactions and the interactions with regional water budgets for representative U.S. ecosystems.

The current physical space for ATDD consists of four buildings that together provide office space, laboratory space, staging and assembly and a machine shop. In addition, six shipping/storage containers are used to securely store field equipment and supplies, meteorological instrumentation, and power systems for remote climate stations. The current ATDD facilities are approximately 17,573 square feet which includes office space, auditorium and kitchen space, warehouse and storage space and staging areas. Current space can house up to 36 staff, including full-time employees, visiting scientists and students, and contract employees.

ATDD needs additional space to accommodate offices for staff expansion, visiting scientists and students, as well as space for additional lab work, engineering assembly, sensor calibration and testing, and sensor prototyping and evaluation. NOAA/OAR needs at least 12,500 additional or 30,000 total square feet of space to effectively house personnel and equipment necessary to meet ATDD's mission.

Research programs at ATDD will continue over the next decade and

beyond at approximately their current levels, with moderate growth in staffing to accommodate emerging programs associated with water and drought planning, climate testbeds and air-surface exchange research. Partnerships with several universities will continue and new partnerships will be established, with a resulting small influx of students and faculty for short and long-term visits. The need for shop, lab, and storage space for testing and evaluation of new sensor technologies will continue to grow.

Programs are often delayed by having to displace partially completed work from available space to complete a project or repair a system with a more urgent timeline. The existing facility severely limits ATDD's ability to implement a primary NOAA goal of working with private industry, universities, and national and international agencies to create and leverage partnerships for more effective research; we frequently encounter such opportunities, but are limited when offering space to accommodate visitors to work with our existing staff.

ATDD's property has historically been used by scientists as a testbed for many systems prior to their deployment into the field. Given the increase in traffic and commercial development in the local area, the testbed data are suspect with regards to accuracy of measurements and actual reliability.

The purpose of the public scoping process for this EA is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including potential alternatives, and the extent to which those issues and impacts will be analyzed in the EA. Federal, state, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by NOAA's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by NOAA to participate as a cooperating agency.

Dated: October 28, 2016.

Jason Donaldson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE996

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) will convene a public peer review panel meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, November 18, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for agenda details.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton BWI Airport, 890 Elkridge Landing Rd., Linthicum Heights, MD 21090; telephone: (410) 859-8400.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; Web site: www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MAFMC will convene a peer review panel consisting of members of the MAFMC's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and other outside experts, to review a summer flounder allocation model project. The MAFMC contracted the development of this project to inform consideration of potential changes to the allocation of annual catch and landings limits between the commercial and recreational sectors of the summer flounder fishery. This analysis aims to determine which allocations would maximize benefits to the commercial and recreational sectors. The results of this project and peer review are scheduled to be presented to the MAFMC in December 2016.

A detailed agenda and background documents will be made available on the Council's Web site (www.mafmc.org) prior to the meeting.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M.

Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 28, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[0648-XF008]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Applications for two new scientific research permits and 13 permit renewals.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received 15 scientific research permit application requests relating to Pacific salmon, steelhead, eulachon, and green sturgeon. The proposed research is intended to increase knowledge of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to help guide management and conservation efforts. The applications may be viewed online at: https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/preview/preview_open_for_comment.cfm.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on the applications must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on December 5, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the applications should be sent to the Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232-1274. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503-230-5441 or by email to nmfs.nwr.apps@noaa.gov (include the permit number in the subject line of the fax or email).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Clapp, Portland, OR (ph.: 503-231-2314), Fax: 503-230-5441, email: Robert.Clapp@noaa.gov). Permit application instructions are available from the address above, or online at <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

The following listed species are covered in this notice:

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Threatened Lower Columbia River (LCR); threatened Puget Sound (PS); threatened Snake River (SR) spring/summer-run; threatened SR fall-run; endangered Upper Columbia River (UCR) spring-run; threatened Upper Willamette River (UWR).

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened LCR; threatened Middle Columbia River (MCR); threatened PS; threatened SR; threatened UCR; threatened UWR

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): Threatened Hood Canal Summer-run (HCS); threatened Columbia River (CR).

Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*): Threatened LCR; threatened Oregon Coast (OC) coho.

Sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*): Threatened Ozette Lake (OL); endangered SR.

Eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*): Threatened Southern (S).

Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*): Threatened Southern (S).

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 based on findings that such permits: (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**). Such hearings are held at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS.

Applications Received

Permit 1135-9R

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is seeking to renew, for five years, a research permit that currently allows them to take juvenile LCR steelhead in the Wind River subbasin (Washington). The purpose of the USGS study is to provide information on the growth, survival, habitat use, and life-histories of LCR steelhead. This information would improve understanding of habitat associations and life history strategies for LCR steelhead in the Wind River and that, in turn, would help state, tribal, and Federal efforts to restore LCR steelhead.

The USGS proposes to capture juvenile LCR steelhead using backpack electrofishing equipment, hold the fish in aerated buckets, anaesthetize them with MS-222, measure length and weight, tag age-0 and age-1 fish with passive integrated transponders (PIT-tags), and release all fish at the site of collection after they recover from anesthesia. The researchers do not propose to kill any fish but a small number may die as an unintended result of research activities.

Permit 1175-9R

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF) is seeking to renew, for five years, a research permit that currently allows them to take juvenile PS Chinook salmon, PS steelhead, MCR steelhead, LCR Chinook salmon, LCR coho salmon, and LCR steelhead in the Middle Columbia-Hood and Puyallup subbasins (Washington). The purpose of this research is to describe fish species presence, distribution, spawning areas, and habitat conditions on lands that the GPNF administers. The GPNF and other agencies would use that information in forest management, habitat restoration, and species recovery efforts. The GPNF proposes to use backpack electrofishing and seines to capture juvenile salmonids, hold fish for short periods in aerated buckets, identify, and then release the fish. The researchers do not propose to kill any fish, but a small number may die as an unintentional result of research activities.

Permit 1345-8R

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking to renew, for five years, a research permit that currently allows them to take juvenile and adult LCR Chinook salmon, PS Chinook salmon, LCR coho salmon, LCR steelhead, and PS steelhead. The WDFW administers a multitude of water bodies through the state of Washington, and this permit would provide them with coverage throughout Puget Sound and the Lower Columbia River basin. The purpose of the WDFW study is to assess inland game fish communities and thereby improve fishery management. The research would benefit salmonids by helping managers write warm-water fish species harvest regulations that reduce potential impacts on listed salmonids. The WDFW proposes to capture fish using boat electrofishing, fyke nets, and gillnets. After being captured, the listed salmon and steelhead would be placed in aerated live wells, identified, and released. The researchers do not propose to kill any listed fish being