

Authorization

In recognition of the timely receipt and acceptance of the reports required under 50 CFR 216.135 and a determination that the mitigation measures required pursuant to 50 CFR 216.134 and the LOA have been undertaken, NMFS issued an LOA to the North Atlantic Energy Services Corporation on June 26, 2001, for the taking of harbor seals, gray seals, harp seals, and hooded seals incidental to routine operations of the Seabrook Station nuclear power plant, provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in 50 CFR 216.134 through 135 and in the LOA are undertaken.

Dated: December 20, 2001.

David Cottingham

Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 01-32238 Filed 12-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 121701C]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Amendment of Permit # 1291

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

ACTION: Receipt of an amended application for a scientific research permit (1291); Request for comments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received an amended application for an ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) scientific research permit from the U.S. Geological Survey at Cook, WA (USGS).

DATES: Written comments on the amended permit application must be received no later than 5pm Pacific standard time on February 1, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the application should be sent to Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503-230-5435. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permit 1291: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (ph: 503-230-5424, Fax: 503-230-5435, e-mail: robert.koch@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species and evolutionary significant units (ESU's) are covered in this notice:

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened lower Columbia River (LCR).

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened LCR.

Amended Application Received

Notice was published on February 21, 2001 (66 FR 11002) that the Columbia River Research Laboratory, USGS applied for a 5-year scientific research permit (1291) for annual takes of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead juveniles associated with a scientific research project at John Day, The Dalles, and Bonneville Dams on the lower Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. The purpose of the research is to monitor juvenile fish movement, distribution, behavior, and survival from John Day Dam downstream past Bonneville Dam using radiotelemetry technology. The research will benefit ESA-listed fish species by providing information on spill effectiveness, forebay residence times, and guidance efficiency under various flow regimes that will allow Federal resource managers to make adjustments to bypass/collection structures to optimize downriver migrant survival at the hydropower projects. NMFS has received an amended application from USGS to include annual takes of juvenile, threatened, LCR chinook salmon and juvenile, threatened, LCR steelhead associated with the fish sampling at Bonneville Dam. ESA-listed salmon and steelhead juveniles are proposed to be obtained by Smolt Monitoring Program personnel at Bonneville Dam, handled, and released or implanted with radio transmitters, transported, held for as long as 24 hours, released, and tracked electronically. Smolt Monitoring Program personnel are authorized to collect ESA-listed juvenile fish under a separate take authorization. Based on the above average spawning success this year, the estimates of total out-migrants for LCR chinook and LCR steelhead are expected to exceed 300,000 juveniles. The indirect mortalities of 162 ESA-listed juvenile salmon and 11 steelhead juveniles associated with the research will not impede recovery of the species. In fact, it should assist in recovery planning by providing information on how juveniles migrate through hydro-power systems.

Dated: December 21, 2001.

Phil Williams,

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**

[I.D. 121701B]

Permits; Foreign Fishing

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

ACTION: Notice of periodic need for break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes for public review and comment information provided by U.S. joint venture (JV) partners regarding their need for break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels to support approved foreign fishing operations in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, International Fisheries Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert A. Dickinson, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, (301) 713-2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) (Magnuson-Stevens Act), any person may submit an application requesting a permit authorizing a vessel other than a vessel of the United States to engage in fishing consisting solely of transporting fish or fish products at sea from a point within the EEZ or, with the concurrence of a State, within the boundaries of that State, to a point outside the United States.

This notice concerns the fact that potential U.S. JV partners have reported that they will need to have a number of break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels permitted under section 204(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to support approved foreign fishing operations in the EEZ. The JV partners have reported that arrangements for such support vessels must generally be made on short notice immediately prior to the need for transport services. The U.S. JV partners have also reported that they are not aware of the availability of any U.S.-flag

break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels and that it will therefore be necessary for them to employ foreign break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels to support their operations.

In the interest of expediting the issuance of required permits and in accordance with section 204 (d)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the U.S. JV partners have requested and received from the New England Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, a general recommendation that any break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels required to support approved foreign fishing operations in the EEZ be permitted under section 204 (d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

In accordance with section 204 (d)(3)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is notifying interested parties of the periodic need of the U.S. JV partners for break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels to transship processed fishery products at-sea and transport the products to points outside the United States. Further information about the requirements of the U.S. JV partners is available from NMFS (See **ADDRESSES**). Owners or operators of vessels of the United States who purport to have vessels with adequate capacity to perform the required transportation at fair and reasonable rates should indicate their interest in doing so to NMFS (See **ADDRESSES**).

In consideration of the Councils' recommendation, the apparent lack of available U.S.-flag break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels (as reported by the U.S. JV partners), and the requirement to process and issue on short notice permits requested in accordance with section 204 (d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, until an owner or operator of a vessel of the United States having adequate capacity to perform the required transportation at fair and reasonable rates is identified, NMFS intends to approve as expeditiously as possible all complete applications for 204 (d) transshipment permits submitted by U.S. JV partners in support of approved foreign fishing operations in the EEZ.

Dated: December 21, 2001.

Jonathan M. Kurland,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 1, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Lauren.Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: December 26, 2001.

John Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Application for Grants Under the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 200

Burden Hours: 8,000

Abstract: This Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program application is designed to effect long-range improvement where enrollments are predominantly Alaska Native, American Indian, Blacks (not of Hispanic origin), Hispanics (including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central or South American origin), Pacific Islanders or any combination of these.

This information collection is being submitted under the Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections (1890-0001). Therefore, the 30-day public comment period notice will be the only public comment notice published for this information collection.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO.RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at (202) 708-9266 or via his internet address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 01-32158 Filed 12-31-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.