 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XC105
Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish
AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.
ACTION: Receipt of application for scientific research and enhancement.
SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received a scientific research and enhancement permit application requesting to take anadromous species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The proposed research activities are intended to increase knowledge of the species and to help guide management and conservation efforts.
DATES: Written comments on the permit application must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see ADDRESSES) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on August 17, 2012.
ADDRESSES: The application and related documents may be viewed online at: https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/preview/preview_open_for_comment.cfm. These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment by contacting NMFS by phone (916) 930–3706 or fax (916) 930–3629. Written comments on the application should be submitted to the Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 650 Capitol Mall, Room 5–100, Sacramento, CA 95814. Comments may also be submitted via fax to (916) 930–3629 or by email to FRNPermits.SR@noaa.gov.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amanda Cranford, Sacramento, CA (ph.: 916–930–3706, email: Amanda.Cranford@noaa.gov).
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Species Covered in This Notice
This notice is relevant to federally threatened California Central Valley steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss), threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (O. tshawytscha), endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (O. tshawytscha), and threatened southern distinct population segment of North American (sDPS) green sturgeon (Acipenser medirostris).
Authority
Scientific research permits are issued in accordance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1543) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 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 which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in 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 the applications listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on the application(s) would be appropriate (see ADDRESSES). Such hearings are held at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS.
Application Received
Permit 16543
The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is requesting a 3-year scientific research and enhancement permit to take adult CCV steelhead, Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, and both adult and juvenile sDPS green sturgeon associated with research activities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California. In the studies described below, all take will be incidental and non-lethal. Application 16543 was previously noticed in the Federal Register (76 FR 57717) with a 30 day comment period from September 16, 2011 to October 17, 2011. No comments were received for this application, however due to substantial changes to the sampling methods and the amount take NMFS decided to publish the revised notice for public comment.
This project will examine predation by introduced fishes (striped bass, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass) and native resident fishes (Sacramento pikeminnow) on migrating native fishes (juvenile Chinook salmon, juvenile steelhead, delta and longfin smelt, white and green sturgeon, and Sacramento splittail) across a variety of habitats and migration corridors in the northern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Results will provide information on spatial and environmental patterns of predation; critical information for guiding future restoration projects on conditions likely to support or discourage higher predation rates on endangered and native fishes. The sampling will be conducted in April, June and December in the Sacramento River above Rio Vista, Georgiana, Steamboat, Miner, and Cache sloughs, the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel, and Liberty Island. Sampling months were selected based on likely periods of co-occurrence of predators and prey species of interest. Predators will be sampled using trammel nets, with the goal of genetically analyzing their gut contents for the DNA of various prey items.
While listed species are not the target of the sampling program, incidental take may occur and will provide valuable information on abundance, habitat use, and migration timing.
Dated: July 13, 2012.
Angela Somma,
Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
 [FR Doc. 2012–17487 Filed 7–17–12; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting
AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.
ACTION: Notice; public meeting.
SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Groundfish Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 2, 2012 at 9 a.m.
ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431–2300; fax: (603) 433–5649.
Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the committee’s agenda are as follows:

The Groundfish Oversight Committee will discuss possible adjustments to sector management measures and issues related to setting Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs), Annual Catch Limits (ACLs), and Accountability Measures (AMs). The Committee will continue to develop options to improve sector monitoring, including both at-sea and dockside monitoring. They may discuss different funding mechanisms, appropriate coverage levels, full retention of allocated groundfish species, and ACE carry-over provisions. With respect to ABCs/ACLs/AMs, the Committee will consider additional sub-ACLs for the scallop fishery for stocks such as SNE/MAB windowpane flounder and SNE/MA winter flounder. The Committee may also develop options for additional sub-ACLs for fisheries outside the Council’s jurisdiction that catch these stocks. Examples of fisheries that may be affected include the fluke and scup fisheries that are managed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and the squid fisheries are managed by the MAFMC. Committee members will also discuss additional reactive AMs for wolfish, SNE/MA winter flounder, and Atlantic halibut. The Committee may also discuss other issues that may be incorporated into the framework, such as issues related to Georges Bank yellowtail flounder management. Options identified by the Committee will be included in a future management action (Framework Adjustment 48) that will be considered by the Council in the fall of 2012. The Committee is also expected to receive a preliminary report on the recent assessments of Eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder that were conducted by the Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee. The Committee may provide comments for consideration by the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee when it negotiates FY 2013 quotas for these stocks. Other business may be discussed.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations
The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tracey L. Howard (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.
Dated: July 13, 2012.
Tracey L. Thompson, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012–17430 Filed 7–17–12; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting
AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.
ACTION: Notice of a public meeting of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Golden Crab Advisory permit holders.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of Golden Crab Permit Holders in Key Largo, FL.
DATES: The meeting will take place August 10, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Key Largo Resort, 97000 South Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037; telephone: (305) 852–5553.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (843) 571–4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Golden Crab permit holders are being brought together to discuss options being considered by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council that could potentially establish a catch share program in this fishery. Permit holders will be asked to discuss their support for or opposition to a catch share program. There will be an overview of draft Amendment 6 to the Golden Crab Fishery Management Plan for the South Atlantic Region and the permit holders will discuss potential allocation scenarios and share ownership caps among other management issues for the commercial fishery. The permit holders will discuss alternatives in the amendment and provide recommendations for Council consideration.

Special Accommodations
The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the council office (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.
Dated: July 13, 2012.
Tracey L. Thompson, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012–17436 Filed 7–17–12; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XA830
Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to a Wharf Construction Project
AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.
ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that we have issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the U.S. Navy (Navy) to incidentally harass, by Level B harassment only, six species of marine mammals during construction activities associated with a wharf construction project in Hood Canal, Washington.
DATES: This authorization is effective from July 16, 2012, through February 15, 2013.
ADDRESSES: A copy of the IHA and related documents are available by writing to Michael Payne, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.