DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[1.D. 010603D]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit 1413 to Charlotte Ambrose.

SUMMARY: Notice is given that NMFS has issued permit 1413 to Charlotte Ambrose, of the NMFS Protected Resources Division in Santa Rosa, California, that authorizes takes of Endangered Species Act-listed anadromous fish species for research purposes, subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

For permit 1413: Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404–6528.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permit 1413: Daniel Logan, Protected Resources Division, NMFS, Santa Rosa, CA, (707) 575–6033, or e-mail: dan.logan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice:
The following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESU’s) are covered in this notice: Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha), coho salmon (O. kisutch), and steelhead (O. mykiss).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such modification was: (1) applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permit; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. This permit was issued in accordance with and is subject to part 222 of title 50 CFR, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

The applicant’s proposed activities are in support of a potential ESA violation enforcement action. The applicant proposes field investigations to document the potential harm or injury to ESA-listed salmonids within the California Coastal (CC) Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts (SONCC) coho salmon ESU, and the Northern California (NC) steelhead ESU.

The NMFS SWR believes that because the health and life of the animals are in danger, the issuance of permit 1413 is an urgent action and sufficient to qualify as an emergency situation consistent with CFR 222.303(g).

Permit Issued

Permit 1413 was issued on December 11, 2002.

Charlotte Ambrose is authorized to capture and handle ESA-listed salmonids within the CC Chinook salmon ESU, the SONCC coho salmon ESU, and the NC steelhead ESU.

The expiration date of Permit 1413 is June 30, 2003.


Phil Williams,
Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03–2412 Filed 1–31–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[1.D. 010803B]

Permit 1233 Modification

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

ACTION: Issuance of Modification 1 to Permit 1233.

SUMMARY: NMFS has issued a permit 1233 to the State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).

ADDRESSES: Copies of the permit may be obtained from the Hatcheries and Inland Fisheries Branch, Sustainable Fisheries Division, NMFS, 255 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 510, Portland, OR 97232.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Herbert Pollard, Boise, Idaho, at phone number: (208) 378–5614, e-mail: Herbert.Pollard@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) are covered in this notice:

- Spring/summer chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha): threatened Snake River;
- Fall chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha): threatened Snake River;
- Sockeye salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka): endangered Snake River; and
- Steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss): threatened Snake River.

Permits

Permit 1233 was issued to IDFG on May 26, 2000, and Modification 1 to permit 1233 was issued to IDFG on December 6, 2002. Permit 1233 authorizes IDFG annual incidental take of naturally produced and artificially propagated ESA-listed anadromous fish associated with the operation of recreational fisheries that target non-listed, hatchery-origin anadromous fish and resident game fish species. Permit 1233 expires December 31, 2004.

Permit 1233 authorizes IDFG’s recreational fishing programs including the following activities: (1) Resident sport-fishing in waters which also support ESA-listed chinook and sockeye salmon under the IDFG General Fishing Regulations, including kokanee and trout fisheries in Redfish, Alturas, and Pettit Lakes; (2) chinook salmon sport-fishing in the Clearwater River, Snake River, lower Salmon River, Little Salmon River, and South Fork Salmon River under the IDFG Anadromous Salmon Fishing Regulations; and (3) summer steelhead fishing during the fall and spring seasons under the IDFG Steelhead Fishing Regulations. The permit constitutes authorization for implementation of the IDFG General Fishing Regulations, the IDFG Anadromous Salmon Fishing Regulations, and the IDFG Steelhead Fishing Regulations. Modification 1 to permit 1233 includes additional authorized locations for conducting the state’s recreational chinook salmon.
fisheries and authorization of incidental take of steelhead resulting from the authorized recreational fisheries. When permit 1233 was issued on May 26, 2000, no take prohibitions had been established for Snake River steelhead. Anticipating that a 4(d) rule would soon be published, a provision was made to amend the permit when protective rules were published. Protective regulations for threatened Snake River steelhead under Section 4(d) of the ESA were promulgated by NMFS, effective September 8, 2000 (July 10, 2000, 65 FR 42422). Recreational fisheries are monitored in a manner that allows evaluation of the effectiveness of protective regulations and conservation strategies. Take of listed species may occur incidental to otherwise legal fishing activities or illegal actions. Measures are described in the permit to minimize such deleterious effects to the extent possible.

Modification 1 of permit 1233 authorizes take of ESA-listed Snake River Basin steelhead as a result of catch-and-release fisheries, with an associated incidental mortality of 3.2 percent of the natural origin return. The modification further authorizes take of ESA-listed Snake River spring chinook salmon of up to 2.0% of the naturally-produced returns to Lower Granite Dam; this take limit applies when the return is greater than 25,000 adults, and decreases on a sliding scale for progressively smaller returns. No additional take of ESA-listed Snake River fall chinook or sockeye salmon is authorized. NMFS has determined that take levels authorized in the modified permit will not jeopardize listed salmon and steelhead nor result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat where described.

NMFS’ conditions in the permit will ensure that the take of ESA-listed anadromous fish will not jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species. In issuing the permits, NMFS determined that IDFG’s Conservation Plan provides adequate mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for take of ESA-listed anadromous fish.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that the permit: (1) was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. This permit was issued in accordance with, and is subject to, 50 CFR part 222, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

The analytical framework for the assessment has been designed to determine if habitat function has been degraded by environmental and anthropogenic inputs. In so doing, it will provide a basis for informed policy discussions. By holding a public meeting, the Habitat TRC will further provide opportunity for public participation in the assessment process. The Habitat TRC will only consider technical and scientific questions related to the assessment and will not engage in policy discussions as part of its mission.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the Habitat TRC for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Habitat TRC action during this meeting. Habitat TRC action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 Habitat TRC’s intent to take final action to address the emergency.

In our continuing efforts to streamline our meeting notification process, we are building an email notification list. If you would like to be notified of future meetings via email, please contact Ms. Kerry Aden at (503) 820–2409 or kerry.aden@noaa.gov to provide your email address.

Special Accommodations
The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Diane Marston at (206)526–6150. To gain admittance to the complex, visitors should tell the security guard they are attending the Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee meeting sponsored by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Contact address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

For Further Information Contact: Ms. Jennifer Gilden; (503) 820–2280.

Supplementary Information: The purpose of this meeting is to guide the ongoing assessment of essential fish habitat for Pacific Coast groundfish. Specifically, the Habitat TRC will review data consolidated thus far and review a proposed analytical framework for assessing the status of groundfish habitat. The data include mapping efforts and literature reviews on fishing impacts, impacts related to non-fishing activities, and fish/habitat associations.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
[54x484]PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL; PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee (Habitat TRC) will hold a working meeting on the methodology and data being considered for an assessment of Pacific Coast groundfish essential fish habitat. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee working meeting will take place Wednesday, February 19, 2003, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The meeting will reconvene from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, February 20.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 9 (NOAA Auditorium), Seattle, WA 98115–6349; (206) 526–6150. To gain admittance to the complex, visitors should tell the security guard they are attending the Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee meeting sponsored by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jennifer Gilden; (503) 820–2280.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
Sunshine Act Meeting
The Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service gives notice of the following meeting:

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, February 11, 2003, 9:15 a.m.–12 p.m.

PLACE: Corporation for National and Community Service, 1201 New York