[I.D. 042595B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of permits 946 (P770#68), 947 (P504F), 948 (P563A), 949 (P45Q), and 950 (P45R).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued permits authorizing takes of listed species for the purpose of scientific research, subject to certain conditions set forth therein, to the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS (NWFSC), the Northern Wasco County People's Utility District (NWCPUD), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense (Corps), the National Biological Survey (NBS), and the Oregon Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, National Biological Survey (OCFRU).

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

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3226 (301-713-1401); and

Environmental and Technical Services Division, F/NWO3, NMFS, 525 NE Oregon Street, Portland, OR 97232– 4169 (503–230–5400).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice was published on January 19, 1995 (60 FR 3844) that an application had been filed by NWFSC (P770#68) for a permit to take listed species as authorized by section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531–1543) and the NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217–222).

NWFSC requested a take of the following listed species while conducting six studies: Adult and juvenile Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha), juvenile Snake River fall chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha), and juvenile Snake River sockeye salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka). The objective of Study 1 is to compare the survival to adulthood of spring/ summer chinook salmon smolts transported from either Lower Granite or Little Goose Dam on the Snake River to below Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River with the survival to adulthood of smolts migrating volitionally through six or seven dams and reservoirs under prevailing river conditions. The objective of Study 2 is to assess the migration timing and

relative survival of transported and inriver juvenile chinook salmon migrating volitionally from Bonneville Dam to the mouth of the Columbia River. The objective of Studies 3-6 is to determine the effectiveness of fish guidance devices and other bypass system components being considered for installation at four Snake and Columbia River hydroelectric dams for the purpose of improving anadromous fish passage past these dams during juvenile outmigration. Permit 946 was issued to NWFSC on April 7, 1995. Study 1 will take place during 3 of the next 5 years, Study 2 will take place for a duration of 5 years, and Studies 3-6 will take place in 1995 only.

Notice was published on January 30, 1995 (60 FR 5624) that an application had been filed by the Corps (P504F) for a permit to take listed species as authorized by the above laws and regulations.

The Corps requested authorization to capture, tag, release, recapture, and rerelease juvenile, listed, artificiallypropagated spring/summer chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) as part of a turbine passage survival study at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River in Washington. The purpose of the research is to determine the immediate and delayed (48 to 120 hour) survival rates of run-of-the-river chinook salmon smolts passing through a turbine at the dam under different locations and operating conditions. This information will be used to: (1) Develop a turbine model study, which is part of a Corps project to minimize fish turbine passage mortality; (2) refine normal dam operations to minimize adverse effects to migrating juvenile fish; and (3) provide a baseline for turbine survival estimates needed under the changing conditions of a reservoir drawdown. Permit 947 was issued to the Corps on April 13, 1995. The duration of the study will be from April 15 to June 10 in 1995 only.

Notice was published on January 30, 1995 (60 FR 5624) that an application had been filed by NWCPUD (P563A) for a permit to take listed species as authorized by the above laws and regulations.

NWCPUD requested a take of the following listed species while conducting research: Juvenile, naturally produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), juvenile Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and juvenile Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*). The objective of the annual study is to assess run-of-the-river juvenile anadromous fish condition after passage through the screened turbine intake channel at The Dalles Dam, located on the Columbia River. Continued observation of juvenile fish passing through the screened intake channel during the smolt migration provides specific information on possible unsuitable passage conditions below the water surface which are not directly observable. Permit 948 was issued to NWCPUD on April 11, 1995. The research will take place from April to September for the next 5 years.

Notice was published on February 9, 1995 (60 FR 7752) that an application had been filed by NBS (P45Q) for a permit to take listed species as authorized by the above laws and regulations.

NBS requested authorization for a lethal take of juvenile, listed, naturallyproduced Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) as part of a study designed to compare the physiological responses of wild chinook smolts with hatcheryproduced chinook smolts when subjected to the bypass and collection facility at Lower Granite Dam on the Lower Snake River in Washington. A comparison of the physiological responses of wild and hatcheryproduced chinook smolts may indicate what aspects of bypass and collection for downriver transportation past hydropower projects are most stressful to wild listed fish. Permit 949 was issued to NBS on April 13, 1995. The duration of the study is April 15 to June 30 in 1995 only.

Notice was published on March 9, 1995 (60 FR 12913) that an application had been filed by OCFRU (P45R) for a permit to take listed species as authorized by the above laws and regulations.

OCFRU requested authorization to take juvenile, listed, Snake River spring/ summer and fall chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) as part of a study designed to provide information that will be used to: (1) Recommend siting of the bypass outfall to be constructed at The Dalles Dam on the Columbia River, (2) evaluate the juvenile salmonid nighttime spill pattern at The Dalles Dam, (3) assess the relationship between flow rate and juvenile salmonid outmigration velocity in The Dalles pool and elsewhere, (4) evaluate juvenile salmonid passage routes at John Day Dam on the Columbia River, (5) estimate juvenile salmonid mortality in the lower Columbia River, and (6) provide information on the vulnerability of salmonids to predation by northern squawfish (Ptychocheilus oregonensis). The listed fish to be used for the research will be collected with