public during the comment period and all other available information on the sea lion/steelhead conflict. Following the meetings, the Task Force submitted a report giving their recommendations and minority views regarding the State's application.

The Task Force's primary recommendation was to make all practicable attempts to remove all identified predatory sea lions and temporarily hold them in captivity for the duration of the steelhead run. Regarding lethal removal, the Task Force recommended that approval of lethal removal of individually identifiable predatory California sea lions be allowed only under specific conditions. These conditions are explained in detail in the Environmental Assessment On Protecting Winter-run Wild Steelhead From Predation By California Sea Lions In The Lake Washington Ship Canal, Seattle, Washington, January 1995. In brief, the conditions include the use of non-lethal deterrence measures such as an acoustic barrier; all practicable attempts to capture identified predatory sea lions and place them in captivity during the steelhead run; threshold limits on levels of predation which must be exceeded before lethal removal measures may be implemented; the formation of an Animal Care Committee (ACC) to review and recommend protocols for captive maintenance, medical procedures and euthanasia; stipulations that any lethal removals must be done in a humane manner as specified by the ACC; and recommendations for the development of additional information on the construction and operation of Ballard Locks and on use of the facility by the fish.

Following the recommendations of the Task Force, NMFS approved the State's application and specified the terms and conditions for implementation in a Letter of Authorization as published in the **Federal Register** on January 19, 1995 (60 FR 3841). The authorization is valid until June 31, 1997 although it may be modified or revoked by NMFS. To date no California sea lions have been lethally removed by the State under this authorization.

Under 16 U.S.C. 1389(c)(5), the Task Force will now meet to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative actions taken by the State of Washington under the lethal removal authority granted with conditions by NMFS in January 1995. The meeting is open to the public; however, the public will not be allowed to discuss or debate the issues with members of the Task Force at the meetings.

Dated: August 9, 1995.

Patricia Montanio,

Acting Deputy Director, Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 95–20175 Filed 8–14–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

[I.D. 080895B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of emergency permit 972 (P503R) and emergency permit 973 (P211I).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued two emergency permits authorizing takes of listed species for the purpose of scientific research and enhancement, subject to certain conditions set forth therein, to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

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:

Emergency permits 972 and 973 were issued under the authority of 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).

On June 13, 1995 and June 19, 1995, NMFS received emergency direct take permit applications from IDFG and ODFW, respectively. Each applicant proposed to initiate experimental captive broodstock programs for three populations (total of six populations) of listed Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha). IDFG proposed to collect juveniles from the upper Salmon River (Idaho) tributaries of West Fork Yankee Fork, upper East Fork, and Lemhi River beginning in August 1995. ODFW proposed to collect juveniles from the Lostine River, Catherine Creek, and upper Grande Ronde River (all located in the Grande Ronde River Basin of

northeast Oregon) beginning in August 1995. These six populations have been determined to be extremely close to becoming extinct. Both applicants requested 5-year permits for authorization to collect no more than 25 percent of the juveniles from these populations annually and rear them in hatcheries to maturity for propagation.

The applicants stated that these emergency experimental and enhancement measures are required to forestall the extinction of the local populations and to preserve the overall stock structure of Snake River spring/ summer chinook salmon. The long-term objective of the programs is to achieve the sustainable recovery of the Snake River salmon populations.

The urgency of the permit requests is based on the limited time remaining in which to successfully intervene and collect genetically representative samples of the record low 1994 spring/ summer chinook salmon broodyear from the populations. Delaying juvenile collections would likely result in less genetically diverse samples as up to 60 percent of the populations may migrate downstream in the fall to overwinter in mainstem rivers where individual population groups are indistinguishable. Acquiring and maintaining genetic diversity in hatchery-reared population segments is necessary to minimize adverse breeding alterations and to preserve the wild attributes of the fish.

On August 7, 1995, NMFS issued emergency permits 972 and 973 to IDFG and ODFW, respectively. The permits were written to authorize the collection of listed juveniles in 1995 only, and to allow the hatchery rearing of those fish to adults. The collection of listed juveniles in subsequent years is contingent on the submission of additional permit requests, to be presented to NMFS after the development of long-term management plans for the two programs. The development of long-term management plans will be accomplished by a technical oversight committee made up of representatives from NMFS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State agencies, and the appropriate Tribes. Any additional permits issued for the captive broodstock programs would supersede the emergency permits. Permits 972 and 973 expire on September 30, 1998, when the fish collected in 1995 will be mature.

Issuance of these permits, as required by the ESA, was based on the finding that such permits: (1) Were applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permits, and (3) are consistent with the purposes and