

take juvenile LCR Chinook salmon, LCR coho salmon, and LCR steelhead in selected tributaries of the Cowlitz River in Washington. The research is designed to provide information on fish presence, abundance, distribution, and movement within the upper Cowlitz River. The research would benefit listed salmonids by providing baseline information about fish populations in areas affected by the Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project, and that information, in turn, would be used during the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing negotiations. The EESC proposes to observe fish and use backpack electrofishing equipment to capture them. The captured fish would be anesthetized, sampled for tissues and biological information, and released. The EESC does not intend to kill any fish being captured but some may die as an unintentional result of the research activities.

#### *Permit 1562*

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is asking for a 5-year research permit to take juvenile LCR Chinook salmon, UWR Chinook salmon, LCR coho salmon, CR chum salmon, LCR steelhead, and UWR steelhead in the Willamette Basin, Oregon. The purpose of the research is to evaluate the overall ecological health of the region's streams by evaluating vertebrate and macroinvertebrate assemblages and comparing them to such assemblages in relatively unimpaired reference streams. The research would benefit listed species by allowing the ODEQ to more effectively assess the condition of habitat streams in the Willamette Basin. The information from the study would be used to guide listed species recovery planning and limiting factor analyses. The ODEQ proposes to capture fish using backpack, boat-, or raft-mounted electrofishing equipment or seines (beach or boat) measure them, check them for external pathology, and release them. The ODEQ does not intend to kill any fish being captured but some may die as an unintentional result of the research activities.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decisions will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 30, 2006.

**Angela Somma,**

*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. 032906D]

#### **Environmental Impact Statement Regarding the Application for a Permit for Incidental Take of Protected Resources in Inshore Fisheries Managed by the State of Hawaii**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of cancellation of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the cancellation of its intent to prepare an EIS to assess the potential impacts on the human environment of sea turtle and monk seal interactions with fishing activities in Hawaii State waters associated with an application for an individual Incidental Take Permit (ITP) submitted March 21, 2002, and subsequently revised and resubmitted in May 2005 by the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jayne LeFors, NMFS, Pacific Islands Region; telephone: (808) 944-2277; fax: (808) 944-2142; e-mail: [jayne.lefors@noaa.gov](mailto:jayne.lefors@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS provided public notice through an earlier **Federal Register** notice of availability (67 FR 16367, April 5, 2002) of a State of Hawaii application for an individual ITP for listed sea turtles in inshore marine fisheries in the Hawaiian Islands managed by the State of Hawaii. NMFS is responsible for analyzing these permit applications and authorizing those which meet legal requirements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). On May 9, 2002, NMFS published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in connection with agency action on the ITP application. On September 22, 2003 (68 FR 55023), NMFS published a notice of intent to

hold public scoping meetings on the EIS. However, September 19, 2005, the State of Hawaii informed NMFS that they wished to withdraw and revise their application for an ITP. At that time the state expressed concerns that management measures identified in the ITP for monk seals needed further community input and agency consultation prior to issuance of a final ITP. NMFS will continue to work with the state as they revise their application. The timeline for completion of the revised application is uncertain and elements of the conservation plan may change. NMFS will publish an updated notice on the appropriate NEPA analysis once a revised application is received.

As federal action (i.e., issuance of an ITP) is no longer proposed for the application received March 21, 2002, and amended in May 2005, an EIS is not needed and the notice of intent to prepare an EIS is cancelled.

Dated: March 29, 2006.

**Jim Lecky,**

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

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 032906G]

#### **North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Charter Halibut Stakeholder Committee will meet in Anchorage, AK.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on April 18-20, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 West 3rd Avenue, Aspen/Spruce Room, Anchorage, AK 99501.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jane DiCosimo, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Charter Halibut Stakeholder Committee will convene for its third meeting to continue development of two