

and decrypted (returned to original form) using DES. The modes included in FIPS 81 are the Electronic Codebook (ECB) mode, the Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode, the Cipher Feedback (CFB) mode, and the Output Feedback (OFB) mode. NIST Special Publication 800-38A, Recommendation for Block Cipher Modes of Operation, specifies modes of operation for generic block ciphers. Together with an upcoming message authentication code recommendation, SP 800-38B, SP 800-38A is a functional replacement for FIPS 81. FIPS 81 is DES-specific and is proposed for withdrawal along with FIPS 46-3 and FIPS 74.

NIST invites public comments on the proposed withdrawal of FIPS 46-3, FIPS 74 and FIPS 81. After the comment period closes, NIST will analyze the comments and make appropriate recommendations for action to the Secretary of Commerce.

Future use of FIPS 46-3 by Federal agencies is proposed to be permitted only as a component function of the Triple Data Encryption Algorithm or "TDEA." TDEA encrypts each block three times with the DES algorithm, using either two or three different 56-bit keys. This approach yields effective key lengths of 112 or 168 bits. TDEA is considered a very strong algorithm. The original 56-bit DES algorithm can be modified to be interoperable with TDEA.

Though TDEA may be used for several more years to encourage widespread interoperability, NIST instead encourages agencies to implement the stronger and more efficient algorithm specified by FIPS 197, Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) when building new systems. TDEA implementation guidance will be issued as a NIST Recommendation rather than as a FIPS. NIST plans to issue TDEA as Special Publication 800-67, Recommendation for Implementation of the Triple Data Encryption Algorithm (TDEA).

Authority: Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS) are issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology after approval by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to section 5131 of the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 and the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002, Public Law 107-347.

E.O. 12866: This notice has been determined not to be significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Dated: July 18, 2004.

Hratch Semerjian,

Acting Director, NIST.

[FR Doc. 04-16894 Filed 7-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-CN-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No.: 040709204-4204-01]

Opportunity for Public To View Fire Test of Floor System as Part of the Federal Building and Fire Safety Investigation of the World Trade Center Disaster

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Opportunity for public to view fire test of World Trade Center floor system.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology announces the opportunity for the public to view the fire test of a floor system as part of the federal building and fire safety investigation of the World Trade Center disaster. The test will be conducted by Underwriters Laboratories, Northbrook, Illinois, on August 25, 2004.

DATES: The test is scheduled to be conducted on August 25, 2004, at Underwriters Laboratories in Northbrook, Illinois. A preliminary briefing will be given at 9 a.m., followed by a viewing of the test furnace and floor specimen. A conference room has been set up to view the test remotely, including video and temperature data. The test is scheduled to be completed by 5 p.m. Members of the public wishing to view the test will need to submit their request to attend by 5 p.m. e.d.t. on Wednesday, August 4, 2004, per the instructions under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. NIST will inform selected attendees if the test is re-scheduled for a later date.

ADDRESSES: The test will be conducted at the facilities of Underwriters Laboratories in Northbrook, Illinois. Requests to attend the test must be submitted to Mr. Stephen Cauffman, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8611, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8611, or via e-mail (WTC@NIST.gov) or fax (301-975-4052).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen Cauffman. Mr. Cauffman's e-mail address is cauffman@nist.gov, and his phone is 301-975-6051.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) began its building and fire safety investigation of the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster in September 2002. This WTC Investigation, led by NIST, is conducted

under the authority of the National Construction Safety Team Act (Pub. L. 107-231, codified at 15 U.S.C. 7301 *et seq.*).

Objectives of the WTC Investigation

The objectives of the NIST-led Investigation are to:

1. Determine why and how WTC 1 and WTC 2 collapsed following the initial impacts of the aircraft and why and how WTC 7 collapsed.
2. Determine why the injuries and fatalities were so high or low depending on location, including all technical aspects of fire protection, occupant behavior, evacuation, and emergency response.
3. Determine what procedures and practices were used in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of WTC 1, 2, and 7.
4. Identify, as specifically as possible, areas in current building and fire codes, standards, and practices that warrant revision.

Resistance-to-Fire Testing

To aid in the analysis of the response of the WTC towers to fires, Underwriters Laboratories, under a contract from NIST, is carrying out fire endurance testing of a typical floor system and individual steel members under the fire conditions prescribed in the ASTM E119 standard test. There will be an opportunity for interested individuals to view the fire test scheduled to be conducted August 25, 2004, at Underwriters Laboratories in Northbrook, IL.

A preliminary briefing will be given at 9 a.m., followed by a viewing of the test furnace and floor specimen. A conference room has been set up to view the test remotely, including video and temperature data. The test is scheduled to be completed by 5 p.m. NIST will inform selected attendees if the test is re-scheduled for a later date.

Requests To Attend

Up to thirty people will be selected to attend the resistance-to-fire floor system test based upon the following factors:

- Balanced representation of a broad group of interests, including the engineering profession, public interest groups and families of victims, emergency responders, standards and code making organizations, and media outlets; and
- Time of receipt of request within each group.

To request an opportunity to attend, NIST must receive the following information via mail to Mr. Stephen Cauffman, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau

Drive, Mail Stop 8611, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8611 or via e-mail (WTC@NIST.gov) or fax (301-975-4052) no later than 5 p.m. (e.d.t.) on August 4, 2004:

- Name and contact information of individual who will be attending;
- Name and complete address of organization(s) that individual represents; and
- Specific group of interest (from above list).

Responses to all requests will be mailed, faxed and/or e-mailed, based upon the information provided to NIST, on August 9, 2004. NIST will also inform selected attendees if the test is re-scheduled for a later date.

Dated: July 18, 2004.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 04-16893 Filed 7-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071904D]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Applications for three scientific research permits and one permit modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received three scientific research permit applications—and one application to modify an existing permit—relating to Pacific salmon and steelhead. All of the proposed research is intended to increase knowledge of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to help guide management and conservation efforts.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on the applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific daylight-saving time on August 25, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the applications or modification requests should be sent to Protected Resources Division, NMFS, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503-230-5435 or by e-mail to resapps.nwr@NOAA.gov. Additionally, comments may be

submitted electronically through the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garth Griffin, Portland, OR (ph.: 503-231-2005, Fax: 503-230-5435, e-mail: Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov). Permit application instructions are available at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

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

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*): endangered Snake River (SR).

Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*): threatened natural and artificially propagated SR spring/summer (spr/sum); threatened SR fall; threatened lower Columbia River (LCR).

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened SR; threatened LCR.

Chum Salmon (*O. keta*): threatened Columbia River (CR).

Authority

Scientific research permits are issued in accordance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et. seq*) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR 222-226). NMFS issues permits/modifications based on findings that such permits and modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permit; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies of 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 an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA.

Applications Received

Permit 1403 - Modification 1

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center is asking to increase the number of juvenile SR spring/summer chinook salmon (natural) and SR steelhead they take annually in the Salmon River subbasin, Idaho. The research encompasses two studies: Assessment of Three Alternative Methods of Nutrient Enhancement (Salmon Carcasses, Carcass Analogues, and Nutrient Pellets) on Biological Communities in Columbia River Tributaries, and Utilization of Nutrients from Spawning Salmon by

Juvenile Chinook Salmon and Steelhead in the Columbia and Snake River Basins. The research has many purposes and would benefit listed salmon and steelhead in different ways. In general, the purpose of the research is to (a) learn how salmonids acquire nutrients from the bodies of dead spawners and test three methods of using those nutrients to increase growth and survival among naturally produced salmonids and (b) determine the extent to which juvenile steelhead and chinook use marine-derived nutrients and learn more about the relationships between juvenile salmonid body size, population density, and nutrient uptake. The research would benefit the fish by helping managers use nutrient enhancement techniques to recover listed salmonid populations. Moreover, managers would be able to gain a broader understanding of the role marine-derived nutrients play in ecosystem health as a whole. This, in turn, would help inform management decisions and actions intended to help salmon recovery in the future.

Under these studies, the fish would variously be (a) captured (using seines, nets, traps and, possibly, electrofishing equipment) and anesthetized; (b) measured, weighed, and fin-clipped; (c) held for a time in enclosures in the stream from which they are captured; and (d) released. Both projects call for some juvenile listed fish to be intentionally killed as part of the research. It is also likely that a small percentage of the fish being captured would unintentionally be killed during the process. In addition, tissue samples would be taken from adult carcasses found on streambanks.

Permit 1487

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is requesting a 5-year research permit to annually capture, handle, and release juvenile LCR steelhead, LCR chinook salmon, and CR chum salmon. The research would take place in Cedar Creek, a tributary to the Lewis River in Washington State. The purpose of the research is to estimate the abundance and determine migration timing of recently-metamorphosed lamprey and juvenile salmonids. The research would benefit the fish by providing information on the population characteristics and, ultimately, would help managers assess population responses to recovery measures.

The FWS proposes to capture the fish using rotary screw traps. Once captured, the salmonids would be anesthetized, identified to species, checked for marks and tags, allowed to recover, and released. The FWS does not intend to