Permit Issued

Permit 14159–2R

On July 30, 2019, the renewed Section 10(a)(1)(A) scientific enhancement permit 14159–2R was issued to NMFS’ California Coastal Office in Long Beach, California. This permit authorizes activities that are expected to enhance the survival of the endangered Southern California (SC) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss) through (1) rescue and relocation of at-risk steelhead, (2) ecological research, and (3) invasive species management. Activities associated with these three primary components could occur anywhere within the range for the SC DPS of steelhead. A summary of these components is provided as follows.

1. Rescue and Relocation

This component involves rescuing and relocating steelhead from stream sections experiencing natural dewatering during the dry season or prolonged periods of below average rainfall. Specific staff listed on the permit from both NMFS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) are authorized to conduct relocation activities and will follow a predetermined communication and documentation protocol while implementing these relocation efforts. Standard scientific methods and equipment (e.g., backpack-electrofishing, nets, seines, portable air pumps, transport containers, water chillers, etc.) are authorized for the capture and relocation of steelhead. Captured steelhead will be transported for release into habitats within the same watershed (when possible) that are determined likely to maintain adequate water and habitat quality through the remainder of the dry season. Because this is an endangered population with low abundance, relocating steelhead from sections of stream where they will likely perish is expected to benefit the survival of this species.

2. Ecological Research

Basic information regarding the ecology of endangered SC steelhead is extremely limited, yet such information is critical for guiding science-based decisions regarding the conservation of this species. Field-based investigations authorized under permit 14159–2R are expected to produce much-needed empirical data, particularly data concerning the ecology of endangered steelhead. The empirical data would benefit steelhead through informing species-management and protection efforts, including enforcement of certain ESA provisions. Specific NMFS’ staff listed on the permit are authorized to implement this research. Ecological research elements authorized under permit 14159–2R involve the following: (1) Salvaging steelhead carcasses to assess age, growth, and toxicology; (2) trapping emergent fry to assess spawning ecology; (3) capturing juvenile steelhead to assess the effectiveness of steelhead relocation; (4) collecting and maintaining steelhead to improve species management and protection; and (5) developing a predictive model for the maximum size of juvenile steelhead in streams. Permit 14159–2R authorizes standard scientific methods and procedures (e.g., Passive Integrated Transponder-tagging, fin-clip/DNA analysis, scale sampling, otolith analysis, anesthesia etc.) to conduct these research elements.

3. Invasive Species Management

NMFS’ recovery plan for endangered SC steelhead highlights non-native aquatic plant and animal species as a threat to steelhead in many watersheds across the SC DPS of steelhead. Non-native fish, crustaceans, and amphibians can harm steelhead indirectly through competition for resources (e.g., food, living space) or degradation of habitat quality and directly through predation on steelhead. As such, removing these non-native species is expected to be highly beneficial for steelhead. Specific NMFS’ and CDFW staff listed on the permit are authorized to implement standard methods for capture and removal of invasive species (e.g., backpack-electrofishing, seining, hand-nets, traps, hook-and-line angling, and spearfishing). Invasive species management methods will target capture and removal of non-native species; however, these activities may also result in the capture of steelhead in the process. Steelhead captured during invasive species management will be (1) measured for length and weight, (2) potentially have a tissue sample (i.e., fin clip, scale) taken, and (3) returned unharmed to the stream. Any non-native species captured will be humanely euthanized and disposed.

Field activities for the various enhancement components authorized under permit 14159–2R can occur year-round between July 30, 2019 and December 31, 2029. The annual sum of take authorized with permit 14159–2R is as follows: (1) Non-lethal capture and release of up to 4,000 juvenile steelhead while electrofishing, (2) non-lethal capture and release of up to 200 juvenile steelhead while seining, (3) non-lethal capture and release of up to 100 adult steelhead using hand net or seine, (4) collection and retention of up to 110 adult and 300 juvenile steelhead carcasses, (5) non-lethal capture and release of up to 5 adult and 600 juvenile steelhead for the purpose of applying Passive Integrated Transponder-tags, (6) non-lethal capture and release up to 2,000 fry during emergent trapping, (7) non-lethal capture of up to 5 juvenile steelhead while hook-and-line angling, and (8) non-lethal observation of up to 2,000 juvenile and 50 adult steelhead during instream snorkel surveys. The annual unintentional lethal steelhead take authorized under permit 14159–2R is up to 241 juvenile, 100 fry, and 2 adult. The annual intentional (directed) lethal take authorized under permit 14159–2R is up to 200 steelhead fry.

The activities authorized under permit 14159–2R are expected to enhance survival and support steelhead recovery across the entire SC DPS of steelhead and are consistent with recommendations and objectives outlined in NMFS’ Endangered Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan. See the application for permit 14159–2R and issued permit for greater details on the various components of this scientific enhancement effort, including the specific scientific methods and take allotments authorized for each.


Angela Somma,
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3 of Executive Order 13891 requires federal agencies to “establish or maintain on its website a single, searchable, indexed database that contains or links to all guidance documents in effect from such agency or component.” Executive Order 13891, 84 FR 55,235 (October 9, 2019).

Question 1 of OMB Memorandum M–20–02 further requires agencies to “send to the Federal Register a notice announcing the existence of the new guidance portal and explaining that all guidance documents remaining in effect are contained on the new guidance portal.” OMB Memorandum M–20–02 (October 31, 2019).

In compliance with the above, CNCS gives notice of the availability of a single, searchable, indexed database containing all CNCS guidance documents currently in effect, which may be accessed at www.nationalservice.gov/guidance on or after February 28, 2020.

(Authority: E.O. 13891, 84 FR 55,235; OMB Memorandum M–20–02)


Amy Borgstrom,
Associate Director of Policy.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Office of the Secretary
[Transmittal No. 19–55]
Arms Sales Notification


ACTION: Arms sales notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of an arms sales notification.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Karma Job at karma.d.job.civ@mail.mil or (703) 697–8976.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This 36(b)(1) arms sales notification is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Public Law 104–164 dated July 21, 1996. The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 19–55, Policy Justification and Sensitivity of Technology.


Aaron T. Siegel,
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.