



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ARIZONA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES STATE OFFICE
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September 2, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Director, National Park Service, San Francisco, California

FROM: State Supervisor

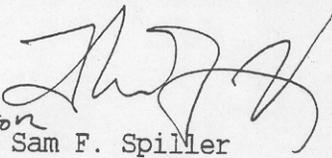
SUBJECT: Increase in Incidental Take for Section 7 Consultation 2-21-F-91-483, Issuance of Permit to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to Collect Humpback Chub in Grand Canyon National Park

This memorandum increases the level of incidental take of humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) that was established in the subject biological opinion dated September 13, 1991, with amendments dated April 24, 1992, and February 23, 1993.

The previous level of incidental take was established using previous collection experience and general species information. Previous incidental take limits for humpback chub over 30 mm total length were 20 individuals in 1991, 25 in 1992, and 10 in 1993. This year young-of-year humpback chubs in the Little Colorado River (LCR) appear to be very abundant, and FWS has handled almost 10,000 humpback chubs from June 6 to August 15. The FWS may be nearing their limit of incidental take (after accounting for purposefully taken specimens). However, no humpback chub larger than 75 mm total length has taken incidentally.

The FWS has one remaining field trip to the LCR before January 1, 1994. The potential also exists for a second trip before the year's end. Additionally, as young-of-year fish age, they should become more hardy and less inclined to be harmed from net or handling stress. Based on the new information, we anticipate that take of up to 20 additional humpback chubs from 31 mm to 74 mm total length could occur during the remainder of the permit period. The applicant should continue to follow the reasonable and prudent measures and the terms and conditions provided in the 1991 biological opinion to minimize incidental take.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact Frank Baucom or Tom Gatz.


For
Sam F. Spiller

cc: Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
(AES)(AFF)
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