

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XF258

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; availability of hatchery plans and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has submitted two Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs), and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has submitted eight HGMPs, pursuant to the protective regulations promulgated for Pacific salmon and steelhead under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The two ODFW HGMPs describe hatchery programs rearing chum salmon in Big Creek and steelhead in the Clackamas River subbasin within the State of Oregon. The eight WDFW HGMPs describe hatchery programs that release fall chinook salmon, coho salmon, and winter and summer steelhead into Washington tributaries of the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam. This document serves to notify the public of the availability of the HGMPs for comment prior to a decision by NMFS whether to approve the proposed hatchery programs.

**DATES:** Comments must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific time on April 12, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the application should be addressed to the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1201 N.E. Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232, or faxed to 503–872–2737. Comments may be submitted by email to:

*LowerColumbiaHatcheries.wcr@noaa.gov*. Include in the subject line of the email comment the following identifier: Comments on ODFW's and WDFW's hatchery plans.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rich Turner, at phone number: (503) 736–4737, or email: *Rich.Turner@noaa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Species Covered in This Notice**

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Lower Columbia River.

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): Threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Columbia River.

Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*): Threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Lower Columbia River.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Lower Columbia River.

Pacific eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*): Threatened, naturally produced southern distinct population segment.

ODFW has submitted to NMFS two HGMPs describing hatchery programs that release chum salmon into Big Creek and adjacent tributaries and winter steelhead into the Clackamas River in a manner that is intended to comply with requirements of the ESA under limit 5 of the 4(d) Rule. WDFW has submitted to NMFS eight HGMPs describing hatchery programs that release fall Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and winter and summer steelhead into Washington tributaries of the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam in a manner that is intended to comply with requirements of the ESA under limit 5 of the 4(d) Rule. The ODFW HGMPs specify the operations of two hatchery programs rearing chum salmon in Big Creek and steelhead in the Clackamas River subbasins within the State of Oregon. The WDFW HGMPs specify the operations of eight hatchery programs—two programs rearing fall Chinook salmon in the North Fork Toutle River and the Washougal River, two programs rearing winter and summer steelhead in the Kalama River, and four programs rearing coho salmon in the Grays River, Elochoman River, North Fork Toutle River, and the Washougal River. The Elochoman River program is a new program while the other programs are currently ongoing.

The programs are designed to meet mitigation responsibilities related to impacts from development in Columbia River Basin by providing hatchery fish to support reintroduction of chum salmon, recovery of fall Chinook salmon and coho salmon, and to provide fishing opportunities for fall Chinook salmon, coho salmon, winter steelhead, and summer steelhead while minimizing potential risks to natural-origin Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead populations, consistent with NMFS' Lower Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead ESA Recovery Plan.

As specified in the July 10, 2000, ESA 4(d) rule for salmon and steelhead (65 FR 42422) and updated June 28, 2005 (70 FR 37160), NMFS may approve an HGMP if it meets criteria set forth in 50

CFR 223.203(b)(5)(i)(A) through (K). Prior to final approval of an HGMP, NMFS must publish notification announcing its availability for public review and comment.

**Authority**

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as he deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 42422; July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160; June 28, 2005) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. Limit 5 of the updated 4(d) rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)(5)) further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the updated 4(d) rule (50 CFR 223.203(a)) do not apply to activities associated with artificial propagation programs provided that an HGMP has been approved by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005).

**Angela Somma,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XF279

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will meet April 3, 2017 through April 11, 2017.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held Monday, April 3 through Tuesday, April 11, 2017. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 3rd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W.

4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone (907) 271-2809.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

David Witherell, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. in the Aleutian Room on Wednesday, April 5, continuing through Tuesday, April 11, 2017. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. in the King Salmon/Iliamna Room on Monday April 3rd and continue through Wednesday April 5, 2017. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m. in the Dillingham/Katmai Room on Tuesday April 4th, and continue through Saturday April 8, 2017. The Legislative Committee will meet on Monday April 3, 2017 (room to be determined) from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Ecosystem Committee will meet on Tuesday April 4th, 2017 (room to be determined) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Agenda**

*Monday, April 3, 2017 Through Tuesday, April 11, 2017*

*Council Plenary Session:* The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Executive Director's Report (including update on Social Science Strategy Group development, report from the Lenfest Fisheries Ecosystem Task Force; CCC update, Legislation update, and update on SBRM requirements)
2. NMFS Management Report (including Marine Mammals Take Accounting, Fur Seal Status and Management planning, AFSC Research Prioritization)
3. ADF&G Report
4. NIOSH Report
5. USCG Report
6. USFWS Report
7. Protected Species
8. Scallop SAFE and Plan Team Report
9. Salmon FMP Amendment
10. Pollock ICA/IPA Reports; Update on Salmon Genetics
11. Co-op Reports
12. GOA Rockfish Program Review
13. EFH Omnibus Amendment
14. Halibut Abundance-based PSC Limits
15. CDQ Ownership Caps
16. EM Working Group Report
17. Lead Level 2 Observers
18. BSAI Crab Binding Arbitration Formula
19. BSAI Tanner Crab Custom Processing Cap
20. BS Fishery Ecosystem Plan

21. Programmatic Groundfish Objectives  
The Advisory Panel will address most of the same agenda issues as the Council except B reports.

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

1. Scallop SAFE and Annual Catch Limit Specifications
2. BS Fishery Ecosystem Plan
3. EFH Omnibus Amendment
4. Lead Level 2 Observers
5. Salmon Genetics
6. GOA Rockfish Program Workplan
7. Reports on Marine Mammal Take Accounting, Fur Seal Status and Management, AFSC Research Prioritization
8. CDQ Ownership Caps

In addition to providing ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, the SSC functions as the Councils primary peer review panel for scientific information as described by the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 302(g)(1)(e), and the National Standard 2 guidelines (78 FR 43066). The peer review process is also deemed to satisfy the requirements of the Information Quality Act, including the OMB Peer Review Bulletin guidelines.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.npfmc.org/>

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 8, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XF281**

**Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Protected Species

Advisory Committee (PSAC), Social Science Planning Committee (SSPC) and Marine Planning and Climate Change Committee (MPCCC) to review relevant sections of the draft 2016 annual reports for the Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), American Samoa Archipelago FEP, Hawaii FEP, Mariana Archipelago FEP and Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA) FEP. The committees will also receive updates on matters related to fishery management and may make recommendations on these topics.

**DATES:** The PSAC meeting will be held between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on March 30-31, 2017. The SSPC will be held between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on April 3, 2017. The MPCCC meeting will be held between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on April 5-6, 2017. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The PSAC and MPCCC meetings will be held at the Council office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813, phone: (808) 522-8220. The SPCC meeting will be held at the Council office and by teleconference at (888) 482-3560; Passcode: 5228220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; phone: (808) 522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public comment periods will be provided throughout the agendas. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

**Agenda for the PSAC Meeting**

*9 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, March 30, 2017*

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Status of the Third Protected Species Advisory Committee Meeting Recommendations
4. Review of the Draft 2016 FEP Annual Report
  - A. Overview of the 2016 Annual Report Updates
    - i. Data integration chapter development
    - ii. Ecosystem chapter updates
  - B. Pelagic Longline Fishery Sections
    - i. Summary of relevant fishery data
    - ii. Protected species section
    - iii. Discussion and synthesis
  - C. Pelagic Non-longline Fishery Sections
    - i. Summary of relevant fishery data
    - ii. Protected species section
    - iii. Discussion and synthesis
  - D. Insular Fishery Sections
    - i. Summary of relevant fishery data