

four Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMP) are available for public comment on hatchery programs in the Touchet River, Umatilla River, Deschutes River, and Hood River Basins. The HGMPs were submitted for review and determination under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) 4(d) Rule.

DATES: Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on August 13, 2020. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Written responses should be addressed to the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Portland, OR 97232. Comments may be submitted by email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is:

Hatcheries.Public.Comment@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the email comment the following identifier: Mid-Columbia Hatchery Comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Turner at (503) 736-4737 or by email at *rich.turner@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice

- Lower Columbia River Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Threatened, naturally and artificially propagated
- Middle Columbia River Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened, naturally and artificially propagated
- Lower Columbia River Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened, naturally and artificially propagated
- Lower Columbia River Coho Salmon (*O. kisutch*): Threatened, naturally and artificially propagated
- Columbia River Chum Salmon (*O. keta*): Threatened, naturally and artificially propagated

Background

Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the “taking” of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The term “take” is defined under the ESA to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS may make exceptions to the take prohibitions in section 9 of the ESA for programs that are approved by NMFS under the 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)(6)).

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation Oregon and the Oregon Department of Fish and Game (ODFW) have submitted HGMPs for two programs in the Hood River—spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead—

under Limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule; these programs are funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and are evaluated in the PEPD. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted the Touchet River Endemic Summer Steelhead HGMP under Limit 5 of the 4(d) Rule. The ODFW submitted the Umatilla River Summer Steelhead HGMP, the Round Butte Hatchery Spring Chinook Salmon, and the Round Butte Hatchery Summer Steelhead programs in the Deschutes River under Limit 5 of the 4(d) Rule. The Umatilla Hatchery program, as well as a small proportion of the Round Butte Hatchery programs, is funded by the BPA, with the remainder of these programs funded by Portland General Electric.

Prior to making a final determination on the submitted plans, NMFS must take comments on how the HGMPs address the criteria in Limit 5 or Limit 6, as applicable, of the 4(d) Rule. NMFS is also taking comments on the evaluation in the draft EA of the effects of NMFS’ pending decisions.

The submitted HGMPs describe the hatchery programs along with the associated monitoring and evaluation activities. The programs integrate natural-origin adult into the broodstock to supplement natural salmon populations (the exception is the Round Butte Spring Chinook Salmon program that only uses returning hatchery adults for broodstock). The programs are intended to provide fishing opportunities for tribes and states, mitigate for fish losses caused by the construction and operation of the dams on the Lower Snake River, mainstem Columbia River and Deschutes River and contribute to the survival and recovery of Middle Columbia River and Lower Columbia River steelhead, and Lower Columbia River spring Chinook salmon.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 742a *et seq.*

Dated: July 7, 2020.

Angela Somma,

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

[FR Doc. 2020-15036 Filed 7-13-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA271]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice; of availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Wells Summer Chinook Salmon Hatchery Program for southern resident killer whales.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS announces the availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (FSEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County’s (Douglas PUD) Hatchery Genetic Management Plan (HGMP), in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). The HGMP specifies the release of one million additional subyearling summer Chinook salmon at the Wells Hatchery. This notice provides information on where to view the FSEA and FONSI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Natasha Preston at (503) 231-2178 or by email at *natasha.preston@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice

- Upper Columbia River Spring-run Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated in the Upper Columbia River Basin
- Upper Columbia River Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated in the Upper Columbia River Basin.
- Southern Resident Killer Whales (*Orcinus orca*): Endangered.

Background and Purpose

The HGMP submitted by WDFW and Douglas PUD describes the release of one million additional subyearling summer Chinook salmon at the Wells Hatchery. The HGMP was submitted to NMFS for review under Endangered Species Act (ESA) Limit 5 of the 4(d) Rule. This production is in addition to Douglas PUD’s existing production of

summer Chinook of 320,000 yearlings and 484,000 subyearling Chinook at Wells Hatchery. These two existing programs are implemented under the terms and conditions of ESA Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit No. 23193. These programs were evaluated in a 2019 Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for ESA Section 4(d) Approval and Section 10(a)(1)(A) Permit Issuance for Steelhead Hatchery Programs and Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permits Issuance for Summer/Fall and Fall Chinook Salmon Hatchery Programs in the Upper Columbia River Basin. The HGMP describes broodstock collection, incubation, rearing, release, and monitoring and evaluation.

The Proposed Action is for NMFS to make an ESA determination under Limit 5 of the 4(d) Rule for WDFW and Douglas PUD Wells Summer Chinook Salmon Hatchery Program for Southern Resident killer whales (SRKW).

Alternatives considered for the project include:

- A “No Action Alternative” where NMFS would not make a determination under the ESA 4(d) Rule;

- A “Proposed Action Alternative” (Preferred Alternative) where NMFS would make a determination that the submitted HGMP meets the criteria of Limit 5 of the 4(d) Rule to produce up to 1,000,000 Chinook salmon subyearlings;

- A “Reduced Production Alternative” where the hatchery operators would submit a revised HGMP proposing the production of 500,000 Chinook salmon smolts (*i.e.*, a 50 percent reduction) and NMFS would make a determination that the revised HGMP meets the criteria of Limit 5 of the 4(d) Rule; and

- A “No Production Alternative” where the proposed hatchery program would not be implemented.

Based on the information examined through the study of this project, the NMFS has determined that a Supplemental Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of environmental documentation. The NMFS has determined that there are no significant impacts associated with the project and has issued a FONSI.

This notice is being provided for information purposes only, and as such, there is no public comment period associated with this notice. This notice is issued under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 552(a).

Summary of Comments Received in the Response to the Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan and the 2019 FEA

NMFS published notice of its HGMP for public review and comment on

January 7, 2020 (85 FR 704), as required under ESA Limit 5 of the 4(d) Rule. The HGMP was available for public review and comment for 30 days. One set of comments was received by one individual during this public commenting period. NMFS considered this information as we reviewed the HGMP. WDFW and Douglas PUD did not make any changes to their HGMP, based on these comments.

The 2019 FEA that precedes the FSEA was also made available for a 30-day public comment period upon notice of availability in the **Federal Register** on April 2, 2019 (84 FR 12594). We received comments from two commenters. The comments were non-substantive and did not offer suggestions for improving the hatchery programs nor did they provide any supporting information or documentation for their critiques. None of the comments resulted in edits to the FEA.

Viewing the FSEA and FONSI

To view the FSEA and FONSI, please visit: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/laws-and-policies/west-coast-hatchery-nepa-documents>.

Authority

The FSEA and FONSI have been prepared in accordance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500–1508) and associated CEQ guidelines: Department of Homeland Security Directive 5100.1, National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts.

Dated: July 9, 2020.

Angela Somma,

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

[FR Doc. 2020–15141 Filed 7–13–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA269]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Navy Marine Structure Maintenance and Pile Replacement in Washington

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of Letters of Authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that two Letters of Authorization (LOA) have been issued to the U.S. Navy (Navy) for the take of marine mammals incidental to maintenance construction activities at facilities in Washington.

DATES: The Letters of Authorization are effective from July 16, 2020, through January 15, 2021, and from July 16, 2020, through February 15, 2021.

ADDRESSES: The LOAs and supporting documentation are available online at: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-us-navy-marine-structure-maintenance-and-pile-replacement-wa. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ben Laws, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines “harassment” as: Any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i)