

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

[RTID 0648–XB860]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a joint public meeting of its Scallop Committee via webinar to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This webinar will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5050963324931766029>.

ADDRESSES:

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Agenda**

The Committee will discuss Limited Access Leasing: Review the updated draft scoping document that will be used to gather input on: (1) The need for a leasing program, and (2) and if needed, what should the leasing program consider. They will also discuss the Evaluation of Rotational Management: Review final report, develop recommendations for next steps. Additionally, they plan to discuss the 2022–26 Council Research Priorities: Review current list of scallop research priorities and suggest updates. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to

take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*)

Dated: February 28, 2022.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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

[RTID 0648–XB818]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice; availability of a Proposed Evaluation and Pending Determination for public comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received seven plans for hatchery programs rearing and releasing Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and chum salmon in the Snohomish River basin. The plans describe hatchery programs operated by the Tulalip Tribes and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). This document serves to notify the public of the availability and opportunity to comment on a Proposed Evaluation and Determination Documents (PEPD) on the proposed hatchery programs.

DATES: Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on April 4, 2022. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

ADDRESSES: 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: Comments on Snohomish River hatchery programs. The document

available for public comment are available on the internet at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/hatchery-plans-chinook-coho-and-chum-salmon-snohomish-river-basin>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Morgan Robinson at (253) 307–2670 or by email at morgan.robinson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice**

- Puget Sound Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Threatened, naturally and artificially propagated.
- Puget Sound Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened, naturally and artificially propagated.

Background

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. The ESA prohibits the take of endangered salmonids and, pursuant to ESA section 4(d), ESA regulations can be extended to prohibit the take of threatened salmonids.

However, NMFS may make exceptions to the take prohibitions for hatchery programs that are approved by NMFS under the limits on the prohibitions outlined in 50 CFR 223.203(b). The operators, including the Tulalip Tribes and WDFW, have submitted HGMPs to NMFS pursuant to NMFS' limit six of the 4(d) Rule of the ESA for hatchery activities in the Snohomish River basin, Washington.

The hatchery programs are designed to contribute to the survival and recovery of Skykomish River summer Chinook salmon and Skykomish River chum salmon. These hatchery programs are intended to contribute to fulfilling federal tribal trust responsibilities and treaty rights guaranteed through treaties and affirmed in *U.S. v. Washington (1974)* by enhancing fishing opportunities for Chinook, coho, and chum salmon. Included in these hatchery plans is research and monitoring activities to study the effect of these programs on the recovery of Puget Sound Chinook salmon and steelhead.

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

Dated: February 28, 2022.

Angela Somma,

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

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