

Register on August 18, 1997 (62 FR 43937). The original ESU boundaries during the initial listing of 1997 were from the Santa Maria River south to Malibu Creek. Following this initial listing, *O. mykiss* were discovered in watersheds south of Malibu Creek (Topanga Creek in Los Angeles County and San Mateo Creek in Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties) and genetic testing confirmed that these *O. mykiss* were most closely related to the more northern populations of the Southern California Steelhead ESU. As a result, the range for the ESU was extended south to the U.S.-Mexico border on May 1, 2002 (67 FR 21586). NMFS reaffirmed the listing of all West Coast steelhead populations and applied the DPS designation in place of the ESU designation on January 5, 2006 (72 FR 834).

We published a Notice of Availability of the proposed Draft Recovery Plan in the **Federal Register** on July 23, 2009 (74 FR 36480); and a notice of a 60-day time extension for public comments on September 11, 2009 (74 FR 46747). NMFS held eight multi-day public meetings on the threats assessment and recovery actions, and two multi-day public meetings on the proposed draft Recovery Plan to solicit public comments. We received over 90 comments on the proposed draft Recovery Plan and summarized the public comments, prepared responses, and identified the public comments that prompted revisions for the Final Recovery Plan. We revised the proposed draft Recovery Plan based on the comments received, and this final version now constitutes the Recovery Plan for the Southern California Steelhead DPS.

The ESA requires that recovery plans incorporate, to the extent practicable: (1) Objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in a determination that the species is no longer threatened or endangered; (2) site-specific management actions necessary to achieve the plan's goals; and (3) estimates of the time required and costs to implement recovery actions. Our goal is to restore the endangered Southern California Steelhead DPS to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems and no longer need the protections of the ESA.

The Final Recovery Plan provides background on the natural history of Southern California Steelhead DPS, current population trends, and the threats to their viability. The Final Recovery Plan lays out a recovery strategy to address the threats based on the best available science and includes

goals that incorporate objective, measurable criteria which, when met, could result in a determination that the species may be removed from the Federal list of threatened and endangered species. The Final Recovery Plan is not regulatory, but presents guidance for use by agencies and interested parties to assist in the recovery of the Southern California Steelhead DPS. The Final Recovery Plan identifies substantive recovery actions needed to achieve recovery by addressing the systemic threats to the species, and provides a time-line and estimated costs of recovery actions. The strategy for recovery includes a linkage between conservation and management actions and an active research and monitoring program intended to fill data gaps and assess effectiveness of those actions. The Final Recovery Plan incorporates an adaptive management framework by which conservation and management actions and other elements will evolve and adapt as we gain information through research and monitoring; it describes the agency guidance for periodic review of the status of the species and the recovery plan. To address threats related to the species, the Final Recovery Plan acknowledges many of the significant efforts already underway to restore steelhead access to high-quality habitat and to improve habitat previously degraded.

We expect the Final Recovery Plan to help us and other Federal agencies take a consistent approach to section 7 consultations under the ESA and to other ESA decisions. For example, the Final Recovery Plan will provide information on the biological context for the effects that a proposed action may have on the listed DPS. The information in the Final Recovery Plan on the natural history, threats, and potential limiting factors, and priorities for recovery can be used to help assess risks and conservation actions. Consistent with the adoption of this Final Recovery Plan for the Southern California Steelhead DPS, we will implement relevant actions for which we have authority, work cooperatively on implementation of other actions, and encourage other Federal and state agencies to implement recovery actions for which they have responsibility and authority.

Recovery of the Southern California Steelhead DPS will require a long-term effort in cooperation and coordination with Federal, state, tribal and local government agencies, and the community.

Conclusion

NMFS has reviewed the Plan for compliance with the requirements of the ESA section 4(f), determined that it does incorporate the required elements and is therefore adopting it as the Final Recovery Plan for Southern California Steelhead DPS.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: January 4, 2012.

Angela Somma,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA923

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held January 30–February 2, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Renaissance Riverview Hotel; 64 S. Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602; telephone: (251) 438-4000.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Stephen Bortone, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Committees

Monday, January 30, 2012

1 p.m.–2 p.m.—Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) Selection Committee will discuss duties and responsibilities of the SSC.

2 p.m.–4 p.m.—Mackerel Management Committee will review scoping documents for Amendment 19—No Sale and Permits and Amendment 20—Boundaries and Transit Provisions; and select future scoping meeting locations.

4 p.m.–4:30 p.m.—Shrimp Management Committee will review the

2011 Texas Closure and decide whether to have a closure in 2012.

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) will give a presentation to the Full Council reviewing data reports.

5:30 p.m.–5:45 p.m.—Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) Selection Committee—Full Council (Closed Session) will review membership of the Spiny Lobster SSC and removal of Stone Crab Members; discuss replacement of a Member of the Shrimp SSC; and appoint additional Coral SSC Members.

—Recess—

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

8:30 a.m.–12 noon and 1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—Reef Fish Management Committee will meet to discuss the Final Regulatory Amendment for Red Snapper Fall Closed Season Revision and 2012 Annual Catch Limit; review an Options Paper for a Regulatory Amendment for Red Snapper Weekend/Weekday openings; review and discuss the Gray Triggerfish update assessment; take Final Actions on Amendment 34—Crew Size and Income Requirement and Amendment 35—Greater Amberjack Rebuilding Plan Adjustments; Draft Amendment 36—Red Snapper IFQ Transferability; discuss Reef Fish Amendment 33—LAPP Program; review an Options Paper for Vermilion Snapper ACL Framework Action; discuss Reef Fish Framework Action for Red Snapper Payback Provisions for Overages; and discuss any additional SSC and AP comments.

—Recess—

Immediately following the Committee Recess will be the Informal Question & Answer Session on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Issues.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

8:30 a.m.–10 a.m.—The Reef Fish Management Committee—Continued (see above).

10 a.m.–10:30 a.m.—The Joint Mackerel, Reef Fish and Red Drum Committees will discuss starting an amendment to develop Default Status Determination Criteria.

10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.—The Data Collection Committee will discuss the Generic Amendment for Dealer Permits and Electronic Reporting.

11:30 a.m.–12 noon—The Artificial Reef Committee will receive a presentation from Dr. Shipp on the role of artificial reefs in fishery management.

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.—The Spiny Lobster Management Committee will take Final Action on Spiny Lobster Amendment 11.

—Recess—

Council

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

3 p.m.—The Council meeting will begin at with a Call to Order and Introductions.

3:05 p.m.–3:15 p.m.—The Council will review the agenda and approve the minutes.

3:15 p.m.–6:15 p.m.—The Council will receive public testimony on agenda items; Final Action on Reef Fish Amendment 34—Crew Size and Income Requirement; Final Action on Reef Fish Amendment 35—Greater Amberjack; Final Action on a Regulatory Amendment for Red Snapper Fall Closed Season Review and 2012 Annual Catch Limit (ACL); Final Action on Spiny Lobster Amendment 11; and exempted fishing permits (EFPs), if any. The Council will also hold an open public comment period regarding any other fishery issues of concern. People wishing to speak before the Council should complete a public comment card prior to the comment period.

Thursday, February 2, 2012

8 a.m.–8:30 a.m.—The Council will approve the Restoration Committee Membership and Develop Their Charge.

8:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.—The Council will receive a presentation titled “Fisheries 101”.

8:45 a.m.–9:15 a.m.—The Council will receive a presentation on Lionfish in the Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary.

9:15 a.m.–4:15 p.m.—The Council will review and discuss reports from the committee meetings as follows: Shrimp, Mackerel, Reef Fish, Spiny Lobster, Joint Mackerel/Reef Fish/Red Drum, Data Collection, Artificial Reef, and Scientific & Statistical Committee Selection.

4:15 p.m.–4:45 p.m.—Other Business items will follow. The Council will conclude its meeting at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Council and Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Council and Committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 action to address the emergency. The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be

adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. In order to further allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date/time established in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: January 6, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA925

Endangered Species; File No. 16194

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) [Dr. Bonnie Ponwith, Responsible Party], 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149, has been issued a permit to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and unidentified hardshell sea turtles for the purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427–8401; fax (301) 713–0376; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Ave. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727) 824–5312; fax (727) 824–5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Colette Cairns or Amy Hapeman, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 9, 2011, notice was published in the