

DATES: Written comments on the permit applications must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (*see ADDRESSES*) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on March 7, 2011.

NMFS will conduct three public scoping meetings in order to provide information and solicit comments for the preparation of the permit. The meetings will be held on: February 3, 2011, at the Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 West East Avenue Chico, CA 95926 from 5 p.m.–7 p.m., Pacific Time; February 7, 2011, at the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board Room, 5469 E. Olive Ave., Fresno, CA 93727 from 5 p.m.–7 p.m., Pacific Time; and February 8, 2011, at 830 6th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635–4214 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on these applications should be submitted to the Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5–100, Sacramento, CA 9581. Comments may also be submitted via fax to (916) 930–6329 or by e-mail to SJRSpring.Salmon@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elif Fehm-Sullivan, Sacramento, CA (ph: 916–930–3723, e-mail: elif.fehm-sullivan@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

This notice is relevant to federally threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).

Authority

Scientific research and enhancement permits are issued in accordance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR 222–226). NMFS issues permits based on findings that such permits: (1) Are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permit; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policy of section 2 of the ESA. The authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits.

Anyone requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (*see ADDRESSES*). Such hearings are held at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS.

Application Received

On September 30, 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

submitted an application and supporting documents to NMFS for a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit (permit 14868). USFWS is requesting a 7-year permit to collect Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, for the purposes of reintroduction into the San Joaquin River. Multiple life stages would be collected, including eggs, fry, smolts, and adults using various collection methods (backpack electrofisher, red pumping, seining, dip-net) which would then be transported to a hatchery for artificial propagation; and/or they or their progeny will be released into the San Joaquin River and monitored for survival. The overall objective is to collect and reintroduce multiple life stages of spring-run Chinook salmon to develop a naturally-reproducing, self-sustaining population of spring-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River. The target for the experimental population for spring-run Chinook salmon is a minimum annual return of 500 adults by 2019.

The intent is to capture varied and desired genetic and phenotypic characteristics of the fish, and therefore increase the likelihood that the reintroduction of spring-run Chinook salmon to the San Joaquin River would be successful.

The USFWS has proposed measures to minimize adverse impact to the population viability of the Evolutionary Significant Unit and/or the populations within each potential source stream. Finally, the reintroduction and management activities in the restored San Joaquin River must not adversely affect the experimental population and their progeny within the mainstem San Joaquin River.

Collections would occur at all life stages of development: Eggs, fry, smolts, and adults in order to reduce the effect to the existing population and to increase the chances of survival. The propagation and development of the fish at the hatchery involves genetic determination and tracking for both phenotypic and genotypic expressions, and would help ensure survival and re-establishment of a naturally producing, self-sustaining population of spring-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River. The annual level of take will be proposed based on current population status as evaluated against population viability criteria (Lindley *et al.* 2007).

The project has the following five objectives: (1) To implement the stipulation of settlement, *Natural Resource Defense Council, et al. v. Rodgers, et al.*, (2) to collect natural and hatchery-origin spring-run Chinook salmon juvenile and adults for reintroduction efforts in the San Joaquin

River, (3) to collect natural and hatchery-origin spring-run Chinook salmon eggs and juveniles for the purpose of developing a seed stock for a conservation hatchery program, (4) to increase productivity, intra-population diversity and promote local adaptation, and (5) use spring-run Chinook salmon demographic, biological, and genetic data collected throughout the reintroduction process to develop an adaptive management-based management plan for the species to promote recovery of the Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon evolutionarily significant unit.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued to USFWS for the purpose of collecting ESA-listed spring-run Chinook salmon and carrying out the research and enhancement program. NMFS will publish a notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: January 31, 2011.

Therese Conant,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–2533 Filed 2–3–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA110

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reopening the comment period for its proposed evaluation and pending determination on the 2010–2014 Puget Sound Chinook Resource Management Plan. The comment period is being reopened to provide additional opportunity for public comment.

DATES: Written comments on the Secretary's proposed evaluation must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (*see ADDRESSES*) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Daylight Time on February 22, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for copies of the proposed evaluation should be addressed to Susan Bishop, Salmon Management Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-0070, or faxed to (206) 526-6736. Comments on this proposed evaluation may be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is 2010PSCHNKHARVEST.nwr@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line the following document identifier: "2010 CHNK PSCHARVEST proposed evaluation". The document is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Harvest-Hatcheries/State-Tribal-Management/PS-Chinook-RMPs.cfm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Bishop at phone number: 206/526-4587, Puget Sound Harvest Team Leader or e-mail: susan.bishop@noaa.gov regarding the RMP.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reopening of Comment Period

The comment period will be reopened through February 22, 2011.

Background

NMFS published a document in the **Federal Register** of December 29, 2010, concerning the availability for public comment of the proposed evaluation of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) as to how the Puget Sound Chinook Resource Management Plan (RMP) addresses the criteria in Limit 6 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) 4(d) Rule. The comment period for this action ended Friday, January 28, 2011. The comment period is being reopened to provide additional opportunity for public comment. The Puget Sound Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted to NMFS, pursuant to the protective regulations promulgated for Puget Sound Chinook salmon under Limit 6 of the ESA 4(d) Rule for salmon and steelhead, a jointly developed RMP. The RMP specifies the future management of commercial, recreational, subsistence and tribal salmon fisheries potentially affecting listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon from May 1, 2010, through April 30, 2015.

Dated: January 31, 2011.

Therese Conant,

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

[FR Doc. 2011-2536 Filed 2-3-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA111

Notice of Availability of a Draft Framework for Ranking the Relative Importance of Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Populations and Watersheds for ESU Recovery and Delisting

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

ACTION: Notice; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reopening the comment period for a draft technical framework for ranking recovery potential of populations of Puget Sound Chinook salmon and watersheds supporting them. The comment period is being reopened to provide additional opportunity for public comment.

DATES: Information and comments on the draft framework must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**), no later than 5 p.m. on February 22, 2011. We encourage the public's involvement in reviewing this framework.

ADDRESSES: Information and comments on this draft framework should be submitted to Garth Griffin, Chief, Protected Resources Division, NMFS. Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (503) 230-5435 or by e-mail. The framework document is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/Recovery-Domains/Puget-Sound/PS-Chinook-Plan.cfm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Babcock, NMFS, Northwest Region, (206) 526-4505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reopening of Comment Period

The comment period will be reopened through February 22, 2011.

Background

NMFS published a document in the **Federal Register** of December 29, 2010, concerning the availability of a draft technical framework for ranking recovery potential of populations of Puget Sound Chinook salmon and watersheds supporting them. The comment period for this action ended Friday, January 28, 2011. The comment period is being reopened to provide additional opportunity for public comment. The draft framework relies on the best available scientific information

regarding the status and structure of Puget Sound Chinook salmon populations and their habitat. It builds on the work of the Puget Sound technical recovery team, which provided the technical foundation of the Puget Sound Chinook recovery plan (NMFS 2006).

Dated: January 31, 2011.

Therese Conant,

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

[FR Doc. 2011-2535 Filed 2-3-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA193

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC) will hold a work session by conference call to follow up on work assignments from its December 20, 2010 meeting.

DATES: The EFHRC conference call will be held Friday, February 25, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time.

ADDRESSES: A public listening station will be available at the Pacific Council office, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220; telephone: (503) 820-2280. Please contact the Council Staff Officer for accommodations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the EFHRC meeting is to follow up on the December 20, 2010 meeting, and to check on assignments and progress toward developing a report for the April, 2011 Pacific Council meeting. The initial meeting highlighted several issues to address, as the Pacific Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conduct a review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) descriptions for Pacific Coast groundfish species. Major topics of discussion are likely to include schedule and timing; soliciting data and information from