

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

[I.D. 072899C]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting via teleconference.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad-Hoc Salmon Nonretention Mortality Committee will confer by telephone.

DATES: The teleconference call will begin Friday, August 20, 1999, at 9 a.m. PDT.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for call locations.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Coon, Salmon Fishery Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public may participate at the following call locations:

1. Pacific Fishery Management Council office, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR
2. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA
Contact: Phil Anderson, (360) 902-2720;
3. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2040 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR
Contact: Rod Kaiser, (541) 867-4741 extension 240;
4. California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA
Contact: LB Boydston, (916) 653-6281;
5. National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA
Contact: Bill Robinson, (206) 526-6142.

The primary purpose of the conference is to review and direct the completion of work assignments in developing updated, scientifically based recommendations for reliable and consistent estimates of nonretention mortality in ocean salmon fisheries under Council management. The Ad-Hoc Committee will report the results of this conference to the Council on September 14, 1999, in Portland, OR.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

The public participation sites are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. John Rhoton at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the conference date.

Dated: July 28, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-20031 Filed 8-3-99; 8:45 am]

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

[Docket No. 980817219-8219-01. I.D. 073099A]

RIN 0648-AL58

Procedures Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability; final revised environmental review procedures for NOAA.

SUMMARY: This document announces the availability of final revised environmental review procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The revisions update the agency's original procedures published in 1984, based on changing Agency direction, laws, and public concerns. The revisions reflect new initiatives and mandates for NOAA, particularly involving the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act. The revisions provide information on preparing NEPA documents and streamlining of NEPA and other analyses or documents within NOAA.

DATES: September 3, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ramona Schreiber or Steve Kokkinakis,

Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, 202-482-5181. A copy of the final revised NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6 is available from the contacts listed here or via the Internet at: <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/nao/216-6.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA's existing environmental review procedures for implementing NEPA appear in NAO 216-6. These procedures are consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA. NOAA's procedures were last revised in 1991. Consistent with CEQ regulation (40 CFR 1507.3(a)), NOAA published a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** on October 28, 1998 (FR 57664). That document announced the availability of draft revisions to NAO 216-6. Three sets of public comments were received and considered in the preparation of the final revised NAO 216-6. No modifications to the draft guidelines were necessary as a result of the comments received. NOAA has also consulted with CEQ prior to finalizing the revised NAO 216-6.

Comments and Responses

Comment 1: Two comments recommended that NOAA make its procedures regarding Endangered Species Act (ESA)-related categorical exclusions consistent with those of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Specifically, USFWS authorizes categorical exclusions for conservation agreements that require an incidental take statement; the commenter suggests that NOAA do the same. In addition, one comment suggested that NOAA align its overall ESA-related guidelines to match USFWS guidance.

Response: NOAA recognizes that its guidance regarding conservation agreements differs slightly from that of the USFWS. NOAA's procedures describe cases where an incidental take statement for a conservation agreement may receive a categorical exclusion, when the statement is considered to be a "low-effect". In those cases a categorical exclusion may be appropriate. Requirement of an environmental assessment for those conservation agreements that receive an incidental take statement for a greater effect is consistent with NOAA's ESA implementation guidelines. A modification of NOAA's procedures was not considered appropriate. NOAA coordinates with USFWS on many actions, however each agency has its independent policies. Thus, NOAA and USFWS may provide differing guidance

on certain actions in line with each agency's policy position.

Comment 2: A comment recommended that to facilitate public involvement, a mechanism should be provided to extend the 45-day public comment period when appropriate.

Response: NOAA recognizes that in some cases comment periods for review of draft environmental impact statements (EIS) should be extended beyond the minimum required 45-day period. NOAA's procedures recommend that this action be taken when appropriate. A mechanism to extend a comment period exists through notice of extensions via a publication of a notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

Comment 3: A comment suggested that NOAA's procedures require consideration of impacts on state Coastal Zone Management Plans, species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and essential fish habitat as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Act be a required part of an EIS.

Response: NOAA agrees that these areas should be considered in the development of an EIS. In fact, NOAA's procedures identify these and other factors as areas that should be considered in scoping. Where scoping identifies these areas as relevant to the specific action, these factors should be addressed within the EIS.

Comment 4: A comment stated that there is not adequate emphasis for the need to produce NEPA documents concurrently with other review documents.

Response: NOAA's procedures provide recommendations to integrate NEPA into NOAA's decisionmaking process. In addition, the procedures recommend measures to cooperate with other federal, state and tribal partners to reduce duplication in document preparation.

Comment 5: A comment suggested that the examples cited for the application of generic NEPA documents are inappropriate.

Response: The examples identified in the procedures are representative of actions by other Federal agencies that have completed generic NEPA documents or of actions that NOAA believes, in certain instances, could be best addressed in a generic EIS. Where a specific action was under review, a generic EIS would not be appropriate and NOAA would complete an EIS specific to that action with adequate review of all potential impacts.

The revisions are administrative and procedural improvements intended to enhance NOAA's ability to comply with a variety of legislative mandates and Executive Orders without unnecessarily

delaying and duplicating steps in the decision-making process while ensuring public involvement in decisionmaking. These improvements will result in a better understanding of agency roles and responsibilities relative to NEPA.

Notable changes in this version of NAO-216-6 from the 1991 procedures include: reorganization of the document such that users can review the general requirements for preparing NEPA documents, as well as specific guidance on NEPA requirements for particular programs and activities within NOAA; incorporation of new policies and procedures to streamline and improve NOAA's NEPA compliance; specific guidance for NOAA's NEPA responsibilities under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Oil Pollution Act; and incorporation of NOAA's requirements under E.O. 12898 for Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, E.O. 13112 for Invasive Species, and E.O. 13089 for Coral Reef Protection; and guidance on NOAA facilities and construction projects.

This document is available by request through the contact identified previously as well as via the Internet at: <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/nao/216-6.html>.

Classification

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

The Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulation certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it is a procedural rule, and it will have no economic impact on entities. Therefore, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required and was not prepared.

Dated: July 27, 1999.

Susan Fruchter,

Director, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-20032 Filed 8-3-99; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Pakistan

July 29, 1999.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 5, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for swing.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Also see 63 FR 59946, published on November 6, 1998.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

July 29, 1999.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on November 3, 1998, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Pakistan and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1999 and extends through December 31, 1999.

Effective on August 5, 1999, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following