

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

RIN 0648–XG929

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; availability of evaluation of joint state/tribal hatchery plans and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Muckleshoot Tribe, and the Suquamish Tribe have prepared 10 Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans, to be considered jointly, to NMFS pursuant to the limitation on take prohibitions for actions conducted under Limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule for salmon and steelhead promulgated under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The plans specify the propagation of four species of salmon and steelhead in the Duwamish/Green River basin of Washington State. This document serves to notify the public of the availability for comment of the proposed evaluation and pending determination of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) as to whether implementation of the joint plans will appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead.

**DATES:** Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific time on May 2, 2019. Comments received after this date may not be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the proposed evaluation and pending determination should be addressed to Charlene Hurst, NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232. Comments may be submitted by email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is: [nmfs.duwamish-green.hatcheries-PEPD@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.duwamish-green.hatcheries-PEPD@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the email comment the following identifier: Comments on Duwamish/Green River hatchery evaluation. The documents are available on the internet at [www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov). Comments received will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by calling (503) 230–5409.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charlene Hurst at (503) 230–5409 or by email at [Charlene.n.hurst@noaa.gov](mailto:Charlene.n.hurst@noaa.gov).

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

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Puget Sound.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Puget Sound.

**Background**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Muckleshoot Tribe, and Suquamish Tribe have prepared plans for 10 jointly operated hatchery programs in the Duwamish/Green River region. The plans were submitted from April 2013 to June 2017, pursuant to limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead. The hatchery programs release ESA-listed Chinook salmon and winter steelhead and non-listed coho salmon, fall chum salmon, and summer steelhead into the Duwamish/Green River basin and nearby.

As required by the ESA 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005), the Secretary is seeking public comment on his pending determination as to whether the joint plans for hatchery programs in the Duwamish/Green River basin would appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the ESA-listed Puget Sound salmon and steelhead.

**Authority**

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as he deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. Limit 6 of the updated 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)(6)) further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the updated 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(a)) do not apply to activities associated with a joint state/tribal artificial propagation plan provided that the joint plan has been determined by NMFS to be in accordance with the ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule.

Dated: March 27, 2019.

**Angela Somma,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019–06317 Filed 4–1–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

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

RIN 0648–XG912

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Mackerel and Cobia Advisory Panel (AP) and Cobia Sub-Panel.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held via webinar on April 18, 2019, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

*Meeting Address:* The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Registration is required. Webinar registration, an online public comment form, and briefing book materials will be available two weeks prior to the meeting at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/current-advisory-panel-meetings/>. Public comments must be received by 12 p.m. on April 18, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571–4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Mackerel Cobia AP and Cobia Sub-Panel will meet jointly via webinar. Agenda items for the AP and Cobia Sub-Panel include: proposed modifications to the commercial trip limit for king mackerel in the Atlantic southern zone during season two (October to the end of February); discussion of recent closures in the commercial Atlantic Spanish mackerel fishery; and modifications to the minimum size limit for Florida east coast zone cobia. The AP and Cobia sub-panel members will discuss these issues and provide recommendations for

Council consideration as appropriate.

### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the meeting.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: March 28, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06340 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG903**

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Friday, April 19, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. Details on the proposed agenda, connection information, and briefing materials will be posted at the MAFMC's website: [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**Council address:** Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to develop a fishery performance report by the Council's Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Advisory Panel. In addition, the Advisory Panel will be asked to provide feedback on the development of the Council's 2020-24 strategic plan, after reviewing the results of a recent strategic planning stakeholder survey. An agenda and background documents

will be posted at the Council's website ([www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)) prior to the meeting.

### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 28, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06339 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG917**

#### 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.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received seven plans for hatchery operations rearing and releasing Chinook salmon and summer steelhead hatchery programs rearing salmon and steelhead in the Upper Columbia River Basin. The plans describe programs operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Douglas Public Utility District (PUD). The programs are funded by the Douglas PUD, Chelan PUD, Grant PUD, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR). This document serves to notify the public of the availability of these materials, including the draft EA, for review and comment prior to a decision by NMFS on approval of the plan and issuance of the permits.

**DATES:** Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific time on May 2, 2019. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** Written responses to the addendum 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](mailto:Hatcheries.Public.Comment@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the email

comment the following identifier: Comments on Upper Columbia Hatchery programs approvals.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Emi Kondo at (503) 736-4739 or by email at [emi.kondo@noaa.gov](mailto:emi.kondo@noaa.gov).

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

- Upper Columbia River Spring-run Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Endangered, naturally and artificially propagated
- Upper Columbia River Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened, naturally and artificially propagated

### Background

Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (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 section 4(d) of the ESA.

The co-managers and funding agencies, including the PUDs, WDFW, USFWS, and USBOR, have submitted hatchery and genetic management plans (HGMP) to NMFS pursuant to sections 4(d), 10(a)(1)(A), and 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA for hatchery activities in the Upper Columbia River basin. For the programs considered under section 10, the HGMPs serve as permit applications.

The HGMPs describe actions involving hatchery activities (with associated monitoring and evaluation) in the Upper Columbia River basin. The programs are intended to contribute to the survival and recovery of Upper Columbia River Basin steelhead in the Upper Columbia River basin, and to responsibly enhance fishing opportunity on hatchery-origin summer/fall and fall Chinook salmon and steelhead returns.

### Authority

NMFS will evaluate each application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 4(d) of the ESA, Limit 5, and sections 10(a)(1)(A) and 10(a)(1)(B) of ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met under the sections mentioned above, one HGMP will be approved for the purpose of carrying out the hatchery programs and the relevant section 10 permits will be issued. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.