

integral to scoping for developing this EIS. Future Council meetings that offer opportunities for public involvement include the March 8–14, 2016, meeting in Sacramento, California (DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815). Other future opportunities for public involvement may arise and will be posted in the Council Briefing Book (on the Council's Web site (<http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>) prior to the meeting. For further information on these meetings, visit the Council's Web site, <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/future-meetings/>.

#### *Special Accommodations*

The Council meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kris Kleinschmidt at [Kris.Kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:Kris.Kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or (503) 820–2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 26, 2016.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016–04612 Filed 3–2–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XE476**

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

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Collaborative Research Committee will hold a closed meeting to review and make recommendations on collaborative research project proposals.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Baltimore—BWI Airport, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland 21090; telephone: (410) 859–8400.

**Council address:** Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331 or on their Web site at [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:**

#### **Agenda**

The MAFMC's Collaborative Research Committee will hold a closed meeting to review and make recommendations on collaborative research project proposals. In December 2015, the Council published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for collaborative research projects that address seven research priorities. During the meeting, the Collaborative Research Committee will review and make funding recommendations on the proposals that were submitted in response to the RFP.

#### **Special Accommodations**

These meetings are 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.

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

Dated: February 29, 2016.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016–04667 Filed 3–2–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XE472**

#### 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 joint state/tribal hatchery plans and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, the Skokomish Tribe, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have submitted 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 five species of salmon in the Hood Canal region of Washington State. This document serves to notify the public of the availability for comment of the proposed evaluation 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.

This notice further advises the public of the availability for review of a draft Environmental Assessment of the effects of the NMFS determination on the subject joint plans.

**DATES:** Comments must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on April 4, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the proposed evaluation and pending determination 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: [HoodCanalHatcheries.wcr@noaa.gov](mailto:HoodCanalHatcheries.wcr@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the email comment the following identifier: Comments on Hood Canal hatchery programs.

**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.

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): Threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Hood Canal summer-run.

Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*): Threatened Puget Sound/Washington Coast.

#### **Background**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, the Skokomish Tribe, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have submitted to NMFS plans for 10 jointly operated hatchery programs in

the Hood Canal region. The plans were submitted from November 2012 to September 2013, pursuant to limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead. The hatchery programs release ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead and non-listed fall Chinook, coho, fall chum, and pink salmon into the Hood Canal region. Nine of the ten programs are currently operating; the Hamma Hamma Chinook Supplementation program is expected to resume in the near future.

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 her pending determination as to whether the joint plans for hatchery programs in Hood Canal would appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the ESA-listed Puget Sound salmon and steelhead.

Under section 4(d) of the ESA, the Secretary is required to adopt such regulations as she deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. NMFS has issued a final ESA 4(d) Rule for salmon and steelhead, adopting in Limit 6 regulations necessary and advisable to harmonize statutory conservation requirements with tribal rights and the Federal trust responsibility to tribes (50 CFR 223.209).

This 4(d) Rule applies the prohibitions enumerated in section 9(a)(1) of the ESA. NMFS did not find it necessary and advisable to apply the take prohibitions described in section

9(a)(1)(B) and 9(a)(1)(C) to artificial propagation activities if those activities are managed in accordance with a joint plan whose implementation has been determined by the Secretary to not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the listed salmonids. As specified in limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule, before the Secretary makes a decision on the joint plan, the public must have an opportunity to review and comment on the pending determination.

#### Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as she 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 salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005).

Dated: February 29, 2016.

**Angela Somma,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016-04669 Filed 3-2-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 15-61]

#### 36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

**AGENCY:** Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Public Law 104-164 dated July 21, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah A. Ragan or Heather N. Harwell, DSCA/LMO, (703) 604-1546/(703) 607-5339.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 15-61 with attached Policy Justification and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: February 29, 2016.

**Aaron Siegel,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*