

the issuance of a permit (1248) for incidental takes of endangered species.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that a decision on the application for an incidental take permit by the State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), has been made and that the decision documents are available upon request.

DATES: Permit 1248 was issued on January 8, 2001, subject to certain conditions set forth therein, and expires on December 31, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the decision documents or any of the other associated documents should be directed to the Hatcheries and Inland Fisheries Branch, Sustainable Fisheries Division, F/NWO3, NMFS, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 510, Portland, OR 97232-2737 (503-231-2178).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lance Kruzic, Portland, OR, at phone number: (503) 231-2178, fax: (503) 872-2737, or e-mail: Lance.Kruzic@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following species and evolutionary significant units (ESU's) are covered in the permit:

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): endangered Upper Columbia River spring run.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): endangered Upper Columbia River.

Decision

Notice was published on April 19, 2000 (65 FR 20952) that WDFW applied for a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit for annual incidental takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish associated with otherwise lawful recreational fisheries on non-listed species in the Upper Columbia River Basin above Priest Rapids Dam in the State of Washington in the Pacific Northwest. WDFW submitted a Conservation Plan with its permit application that describes measures designed to monitor, minimize, and mitigate the incidental taking of ESA-listed anadromous salmonids associated with the sport-fisheries, some or all of which are expected to occur annually for the duration of the permit.

NMFS' decision is to adopt the preferred alternative in the Conservation Plan together with the preferred alternative in the Environmental Assessment that was completed for this permit action and issue a permit with conditions authorizing incidental takes of the ESA-listed anadromous fish species. This decision is based on a thorough review of the alternatives and

their environmental consequences. NMFS' conditions will ensure that the incidental takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild. By adopting the preferred alternative in the Conservation Plan, with the Conservation Plan's stated assurances that WDFW's mitigation program will be implemented, all practicable means to avoid or minimize harm have been adopted.

Rationale for Decision

The decision to issue the permit was made because the Conservation Plan proposed by WDFW meets the statutory criteria for issuance of an incidental take permit under section 10 of the ESA. In issuing the permit, NMFS determined that WDFW's Conservation Plan provides adequate mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for the anticipated takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish.

The permit was granted only after NMFS determined that the permit was applied for in good faith, that all permit issuance criteria were met, including the requirement that granting the permit would not jeopardize the continued existence of the species, and that the permit is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Dated: March 23, 2001.

Phil Williams,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Draft Guidance for Coastal Impact Assistance Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft guidance for Coastal Impact Assistance Program

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the availability of Draft Guidance for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). The fiscal year 2001 appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State created the CIAP.

The CIAP will direct approximately \$145 million to the outer continental

shelf oil and gas producing states of Alaska, Alabama, California, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas and the approximately 150 coastal political subdivisions within those states to help mitigate the impacts of OCS activities and protect coastal resources. The CIAP requires these states to submit Coastal Impact Assistance Plans detailing how the funds will be expended. This guidance provides the information necessary for eligible states and coastal political subdivisions to develop CIAP plans and submit them to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) by July 1, 2001.

Copies of the Draft Guidance for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program can be found on the NOAA website at <http://www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/cpd/welcome/html> or may be obtained upon request from: Joseph P. Flanagan, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, tel. 301-713-3155, extension 201, e-mail joseph.flanagan@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John King, Acting Chief, Coastal Program Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, tel. 301-713-3155, extension 188, e-mail john.king@noaa.gov.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: March 22, 2001.

Margaret A. Davidson,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

[FR Doc. 01-7725 Filed 3-28-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032201A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Joint Groundfish Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel and Habitat Committee

in April, 2001 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Monday, April 16, 2001, and Tuesday, April 17, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Sheraton Ferncroft, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978)465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Monday, April 16, 2001, 9:30 a.m.— Joint Groundfish Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting

The Groundfish Oversight Committee & Advisory Panel will continue development of management alternatives for Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which will achieve biological goals of the Amendment. The panel and committee will also consider the recommendations of the Plan Development Team (PDT). PDT options include measures that, if adopted, may reduce days-at-sea and may control latent or unused days-at-sea. The Committee will also further develop measures in the alternatives, such as developing a flexible closure system, days-at-sea counting and allocation alternatives, closed areas and other issues. The Committee may discuss recreational fishing measures. The Committee intends to present these alternatives to the Council at the May 2-3, 2001 Council meeting.

Tuesday, April 17, 2001, 9:30 a.m.— Habitat Oversight Committee Meeting

The agenda will include a discussion of habitat measures, alternatives and analyses to be included in the Groundfish FMP Amendment 13 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The committee will consider preliminary information on required essential fish habitat (EFH) components of proposed Skate and Red Crab FMPs. They will also review EFH consultation activities, including a proposed General Concurrence for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District's Nationwide Permit Program. The Committee will review applications to the Advisory Panel in a closed session.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those

issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice 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 final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

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

Dated: March 23, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-7682 Filed 3-28-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032201C]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Hawaii members of the Commercial, Recreational, Subsistence/Indigenous, and Ecosystem and Habitat Advisory Panels (Hawaii AP), in Honolulu, HI. The Council will also hold a meeting of its Bottomfish Plan Team (BPT), in Honolulu, HI.

DATES: The meeting of the Hawaii AP will be held on April 13, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The BPT will be held on April 17 and 18, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., each day.

ADDRESSES: The Hawaii AP and BPT will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: 808-522-8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 13, 2001, the Hawaii Advisory Panel

members will meet to discuss fishery issues of concern in Hawaii, brief new advisors on Council issues and identify agenda items for a full Advisory Panel meeting to be held in June, 2001.

Friday, April 13, 2001

The agenda for the Hawaii Advisory Panel meeting will include the items listed below:

1. Introduction;
2. Orientation including overview of the Magnuson Stevens Act, Council decision making process and fishery management plans (FMPs);
3. Summary of current fishery issues including, but not limited to, the Council's FMPs, draft environmental impact statements, biological opinions, indigenous initiatives, coral reef fishery management, and other issues affecting the management of fisheries in the Western Pacific Region;
4. Discussion of Hawaii local fishery issues;
5. Recommended agenda items for full Advisory Panel meeting to be held in June 2001;
6. Outreach efforts including supporting fishermen's forums in each island area and Council participation in organized public events; and
7. Other issues.

Tuesday, April 17, 2001

The BPT will meet to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introduction;
2. Annual Report review;
 - a. Review Status of 1999 Annual Report Recommendations
 - b. Identify problems and possible solutions for uncompleted recommendations
 - c. Review 2000 Annual Report modules and recommendations
 - American Samoa
 - Guam
 - Hawaii
 - Northern Mariana Islands
 - d. 1999 Annual Report region-wide recommendations
3. Review Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Reserve conservation measures for bottomfish; and
 - a. Measures
 - b. Impacts from closures
 - c. Discussion and recommendations
4. Status of pending amendments/framework adjustments;
 - a. Addition of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Pacific Remote Island Areas to Bottomfish FMP
 - b. Mau Zone new entry criteria

Wednesday, April 18, 2001

1. Bottomfish Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS);