

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Notice of Development of an Experimental Ocean Economy Satellite Account (To Define and Measure the Economic Impact of Ocean and Great Lakes Related Activities)**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Advance notice of development of a satellite account to define and measure the ocean economy; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting comments from the public on the development of a new set of national statistics that would provide information on the economic activity generated by ocean related transactions in the United States.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than 60 days after publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments via email to [OceanEconomy@noaa.gov](mailto:OceanEconomy@noaa.gov). Comments sent by any other method or after the comment period may not be considered. All comments are a part of the public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Quigley, Economist, Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 2234 S Hobson Ave., North Charleston, South Carolina 29405; phone: (843) 740-1155 or via email at [Kate.Quigley@noaa.gov](mailto:Kate.Quigley@noaa.gov).

A summary document of the activities to be measured by the OESA and the estimated ocean-related portions of these activities can be viewed and downloaded on the internet at <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/oesa.pdf>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are developing the Experimental Ocean Economy Satellite Account (OESA). This satellite account will provide a more detailed measurement of the role of the oceans and Great Lakes (herein referred to as "ocean") in contributing to the annual output of goods and services in the United States. NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems

and resources. BEA produces and maintains the national income and product accounts.

The Experimental OESA provides a first-of-its-kind look at the U.S. ocean economy. While BEA's current gross domestic product (GDP) statistics already embed economic activity associated with the ocean, the Experimental OESA separately identifies and highlights these activities in a way that is not possible with current statistics. Ultimately, creation of the OESA provides detailed data that will deepen the public's understanding of the economic impact of the ocean on the U.S. economy. The Experimental OESA also informs decision-makers and improves governance and long-term management of ocean and coastal areas. The first major step is to define the range of activities encompassed by the ocean economy, identify data useful for quantifying those activities, and determine the calculations used to estimate the portion of the activities that are ocean related.

NOAA developed a draft list of activities to be measured by the OESA. A summary document ([coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/oesa.pdf](https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/oesa.pdf)) has outlined detailed information about these activities and the data and calculations used to estimate the ocean related portion of that activity.

After NOAA finalizes these activities, data and calculations, NOAA and BEA will create prototype national-level economic activities that could include measures of gross output, value added, compensation of employees, and employment in the ocean economy (see BEA's website for definitions). The accuracy of these national level estimates will depend on the robustness of the data and methods used to inform decisions about which economic activities should be included in the accounts. Comments and data sources submitted in response to this notice will be used to improve the accuracy of these estimates.

NOAA invites comments from the public, private industry, state and local governments, non-profit organizations, and other interested parties. In particular, we are interested in feedback regarding the following:

1. What ocean related activities and items should be considered for measurement in the OESA?
2. What types of statistics would potential users of the OESA like to see presented in the account in addition to output, value added, employment, and compensation?
3. What data sets (please provide links and sources) could supplement NOAA and BEA's core statistics to help

determine the ocean-related and non ocean-related shares of economic activity in the OESA?

4. What data sets (please provide links and sources) could be used to disaggregate national data to the state and local level?

Dated: April 29, 2019.

**Keelin Kuipers,**

*Acting Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Program Administration.*

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

**RIN 0648-XH008**

**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; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has provided a Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP), and the Nez Perce Tribe has provided a Tribal Resource Management Plan (TRMP), pursuant to the protective regulations promulgated for Pacific salmon and steelhead under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The FMEP and TRMP specify the implementation of fisheries targeting steelhead in the Snake River Basin. This document serves to notify the public of the availability of the FMEP, and a Proposed Evaluation and Pending Determination (PEPD) on the Nez Perce Tribe's TRMP, for comment prior to a decision by NMFS whether to approve the proposed fisheries.

**DATES:** Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on June 6, 2019. Comments received after this date may not be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the application should be addressed to the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232. Comments may be submitted by email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is [Snake.River.Steelhead.Fisheries@noaa.gov](mailto:Snake.River.Steelhead.Fisheries@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of

the email comment the following identifier: Comments on Snake River Steelhead Fisheries.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charlene Hurst, at phone number: (503) 230-5409, or via email: [Charlene.n.hurst@noaa.gov](mailto:Charlene.n.hurst@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Species Covered in This Notice**

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Snake River Spring/Summer and Snake River Fall.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Snake River Basin.

Sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*): Endangered, naturally produced and artificially propagated Snake River.

**Background**

The ODFW FMEP describes fisheries targeting adult adipose-fin-clipped, hatchery-origin steelhead within the Snake River Basin waters in the State of Oregon and in boundary waters with Washington and Idaho. The plan was submitted to NMFS under limit 4 of the ESA 4(d) Rule for salmon and steelhead. These fisheries were designed to support fishing opportunities while minimizing potential risks to ESA-listed species. The FMEP describes timing, location, harvest impact limits, licensing, and gear requirements, and requires that all fish caught with an intact adipose fin be released unharmed. A variety of monitoring and evaluation is included in the FMEP.

The Nez Perce Tribe TRMP describes fisheries targeting adult steelhead within the Snake River Basin. The plan was provided to NMFS under the ESA Tribal 4(d) Rule. The TRMP describes timing, location, harvest impact limits, and gear. A variety of monitoring and evaluation is included in the TRMP.

As specified in the July 10, 2000, ESA 4(d) rule for salmon and steelhead (65 FR 42422) and updated June 28, 2005 (70 FR 37160), NMFS may approve an FMEP if it meets criteria set forth in 50 CFR 223.203(b)(4)(i)(A) through (I). Prior to approving an FMEP, NMFS must publish notification announcing the availability of the FMEP for public review and comment.

For Tribal plans, prior to making a final determination on the plan, NMFS must take comments on its pending determination as to whether or not implementation of the plan will appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the listed salmonids (50 CFR 223.204(b)(3)). While the provisions of Limit 4 of the 4(d) rule

do not strictly apply in review of a Tribal plan, they contain appropriate considerations for NMFS as it reviews tribal harvest plans, and NMFS relies on them to guide its review here.

**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 4 of the updated 4(d) rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)(4)) further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the updated 4(d) rule (50 CFR 223.203(a)) do not apply to fisheries provided that an FMEP has been approved 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).

The ESA Tribal 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42481, July 10, 2000) states that the ESA section 9 take prohibitions will not apply to Tribal Plans that will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery for the listed species.

Dated: May 1, 2019.

**Angela Somma,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XG772**

**Determination of Overfishing or an Overfished Condition**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This action serves as a notice that NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), has found that the following stocks are subject to overfishing, overfished, or approaching an overfished condition. Atlantic herring and Georges Bank winter flounder are now approaching an overfished condition. South Atlantic

blueline tilefish, Gulf of Mexico lane snapper, and Eastern Pacific Ocean yellowfin tuna are now subject to overfishing. Atlantic bigeye tuna is now overfished and remains subject to overfishing, Atlantic blue marlin and Pacific bluefin tuna remain both subject to overfishing and overfished. St. Matthew Island blue king crab is now overfished. NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, notifies the appropriate regional fishery management council (Council) whenever it determines that overfishing is occurring, a stock is in an overfished condition, or a stock is approaching an overfished condition.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Regina Spallone, (301) 427-8568.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 304(e)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1854(e)(2), NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, must notify Councils, and publish in the **Federal Register**, whenever it determines that a stock or stock complex is subject to overfishing, overfished, or approaching an overfished condition.

NMFS has determined that Atlantic herring and Georges Bank winter flounder are approaching an overfished condition. The most recent assessment for Atlantic herring, finalized in 2018, indicates that the stock is approaching an overfished condition because the spawning stock biomass (SSB) is projected to be less than one half the amount of SSB needed to produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) ( $\frac{1}{2}SSB_{MSY}$ ) in 2018. The most recent assessment for Georges Bank winter flounder, finalized in 2017, indicates that the stock is approaching an overfished condition because the SSB is projected to be less than  $\frac{1}{2}SSB_{MSY}$ . This stock is projected to become overfished primarily due to below average recruitment. NMFS has informed the New England Fishery Management Council (New England Council) that, should either stock become overfished, based on realized catch, the New England Council must take steps under MSA sections 304(e)(3) and (4) to rebuild the stock.

NMFS has determined that South Atlantic blueline tilefish and Gulf of Mexico lane snapper are now subject to overfishing. The blueline tilefish determination is based on landings data from 2017. Landings data support a determination that this stock is subject to overfishing because 2017 landings were greater than the overfishing level (OFL). The Gulf of Mexico lane snapper determination is based on landings data from 2017. Landings data support a