

Dated: June 1, 1998.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 222, 226, and 227

[I.D. 022398C]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Extension of Comment Periods; and Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Listing and Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for West Coast Chinook, Chum, and Sockeye and on Proposed Listing of West Coast Steelhead

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; public hearing and extension of public comment periods.

SUMMARY: NMFS is extending the public comment periods and a public hearing will be held on the proposed listings and designations of critical habitat for west coast chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), and chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*) salmon and on the proposed listings of west coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). NMFS has received a request for an additional public hearing to allow further opportunity for the public to participate in the exchange of information and opinion among interested parties and to provide oral and written testimony. NMFS, finding the request reasonable, has scheduled a public hearing and extended the public comment periods to facilitate the reception of public views.

DATES: The meeting date is June 11, 1998, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Written comments on the proposed chinook, sockeye, and chum listing and critical habitat designation and on the proposed steelhead listing must be received by June 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Cunha Intermediate School, Kelly and Church Streets, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. Written comments on the proposed chinook rule and requests for reference materials should be sent to Chief, Protected Species Division, NMFS, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garth Griffin, (503) 231-2005; Craig Wingert, (562) 980-4021; or Joe Blum, (301) 713-1401. Copies of the **Federal Register** documents cited herein and additional salmon-related materials are available via the Internet at www.nwr.noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 9, 1998 (63 FR 11482), NMFS issued a proposed rule to list and designate critical habitat for the California Central Valley, spring-run and the Washington Upper Columbia River, spring-run Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) as endangered and for the Central Valley fall-run, the Southern Oregon and California Coastal, the Puget Sound, the Lower Columbia River, and the Upper Willamette River ESUs as threatened, and to redefine the Snake River fall-run chinook salmon ESU to include fall chinook salmon populations in the Deschutes River, to list this redefined ESU as threatened, and to revise its existing critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). That proposal does not affect the current definition and threatened status of the listed Snake River fall chinook salmon ESU.

On March 10, 1998, NMFS published proposed rules listing the Hood Canal summer-run and the Columbia River Chum ESUs as threatened and designating critical habitat (63 FR 11774), listing the Ozette Lake sockeye as threatened and designating critical habitat (63 FR 11750), and listing the Middle Columbia River and the Upper Willamette River ESUs as threatened (63 FR 11798).

Proposed critical habitat for all four species' ESUs is their current freshwater and estuarine range, certain marine areas for chinook, and all waterways, substrate, and adjacent riparian zones below longstanding, impassible, natural barriers.

On April 7, 1998 (63 FR 16955), NMFS announced the schedule for 20 public hearings in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California to discuss the chinook, chum, sockeye, and steelhead proposals. On May 18, 1998, NMFS received a request for an additional public hearing for the chinook proposal from the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association. The reason given for the request was to allow the many fishermen who could be most effected by the chinook proposed rule and who were participating in the salmon fishery at the time of the public hearings in California the opportunity to comment firsthand with NMFS' officials. NMFS finds that the request

reasonable and has scheduled a public hearing, and extended the public comment period for not only the chinook proposal but also the chum, sockeye, and steelhead proposals.

NMFS is soliciting specific information, comments, data, and/or recommendations on any aspect of the March 9 and 10, 1998, proposals from all interested parties. In particular, NMFS is requesting information or data as described in the **Federal Register** notice announcing the proposed listings and designations of critical habitat (see 63 FR 11482, 63 FR 11774, 63 FR 11750, and 63 FR 11798). This information is considered critical in helping NMFS make final determinations on the proposed listings and proposed designations of critical habitat. NMFS will consider all information, comments, and recommendations received during the comment period or at the public hearings before reaching a final decision.

Dated: May 28, 1998.

Rolland A. Schmitt,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 600

[Docket No. 980519132-8132-01; I.D.022498F]

RIN 0648-AK49

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; List of Fisheries and Gear, and Notification Guidelines

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to establish a list of fisheries and fishing gear used in those fisheries under the authority of each Regional Fishery Management Council (Council), or the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for Atlantic highly migratory species. NMFS also proposes guidelines for determining when fishing gear or a fishery is sufficiently different from those listed to require notification of the appropriate authority. The list of fisheries and gear and the guidelines would apply only to fisheries and gear that occur within the