

respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials or organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address. To obtain copies of the 2000 Strategy, you can download or print one from <http://endangered.fws.gov/listing/index.html> (under Announcements) or contact Kelly Bibb at 404/679-7132 (phone) or 404/679-7081 (facsimile) to receive a faxed or mailed copy. All questions related to this notice should be directed to Mr. Mitch King at the address or phone number listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Mitch King (see ADDRESSES section).

Authority: The authority for this notice is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: February 11, 2000.

Sam D. Hamilton,

Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.
[FR Doc. 00-3782 Filed 2-14-00; 12:13 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 223

[I.D. 081699C, 092199A, 092799G]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of an Additional Public Hearing for Proposed Rules Governing Take of West Coast Chinook, Chum, Coho and Sockeye Salmon and Steelhead Trout

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; notification of public hearing.

SUMMARY: NMFS is announcing an additional public hearing for the following: Proposed Rule Governing Take of Seven Threatened Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of West Coast Salmonids; Proposed Rule Governing Take of Threatened Snake River, Central California Coast, South/Central California Coast, Lower Columbia River, Central Valley California, Middle Columbia River, and Upper Willamette River Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of West Coast Steelhead; and Limitation on Section 9 Protections Applicable to Salmon Listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), for Actions Under Tribal Resource Management Plans. NMFS is holding this additional public hearing for all three rules to facilitate public participation in this regulatory process.

DATES: The meeting date is February 22, 2000, 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Whitman College, Cordiner Hall, 345 Boyer Avenue, Walla Walla, WA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garth Griffin, (503) 231-2005; Craig Wingert, (562) 980-4021; or Chris Mobley, (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

Under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) is required to adopt such regulations as he deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. On December 30, 1999 (64 FR 73479), NMFS issued a proposed rule under section 4(d) of the ESA which contains the regulations that it believes, are necessary and advisable to conserve threatened Snake River, Central California Coast, South/Central California Coast, Lower Columbia River, Central Valley California, Middle Columbia River, and Upper Willamette River ESUs of West Coast Steelhead. The proposed rule applies ESA section 9(a)(1) prohibitions to the previously mentioned steelhead ESUs, but proposes not to apply the take prohibitions to 13 specific programs which limit impacts on listed steelhead to an extent that makes added protection through Federal regulation not necessary and advisable for the

conservation of these ESUs (see 64 FR 73479).

On January 3, 2000 (65 FR 170), NMFS issued a proposed rule under section 4(d) of the ESA which was nearly identical to the December 30, 1999, proposal except that it applied to the following species of salmon: Oregon Coast Coho, Puget Sound, Lower Columbia and Upper Willamette Chinook, Hood Canal Summer-run and Columbia River Chum, and Ozette Lake Sockeye.

Also on January 3, 2000 (65 FR 108), NMFS issued a proposed rule under section 4(d) of the ESA that would not impose the section 9(a)(1) prohibitions on take when impacts on threatened salmonids result from implementation of a tribal resource management plan, where the Secretary has determined that implementing that Tribal Plan will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery for the listed species. This proposal applies to threatened salmonids that are currently subject to ESA section 9(a)(1) take prohibitions: Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon; Snake River fall chinook salmon; Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon; and Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon. This proposed limitation on take prohibitions would also be available for all other threatened salmonid ESUs whenever final ESA section 9(a) prohibitions are made applicable to those ESUs.

On February 14, 2000, NMFS published a **Federal Register** document under the Proposed Rules section which extended the public comment periods for all 3 proposed rules and announced additional public hearings in Washington and Idaho. Because these closely related rules had public comment periods that ended on different dates (February 22, 2000, for the steelhead proposal and March 3, 2000, for the other 2 proposals, respectively), NMFS extended the comment period for all three rules to March 6, 2000, to avoid confusion and to facilitate public participation.

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 finds that the request is reasonable and has scheduled the meeting accordingly (see **DATES** and **ADDRESSES**).

NMFS is soliciting specific information, comments, data, and/or recommendations on any aspect of the December 30, 1999, and January 3, 2000, proposals from all interested parties.

This information is considered critical in helping NMFS make final determinations on the proposals. NMFS will consider all information, comments, and recommendations received during the comment period and at the public hearings before reaching a final decision.

Special Accommodations

These hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language or other aids should be directed to Garth Griffin (see **ADDRESSES**) 7 days before the meeting date.

Dated: February 10, 2000.

Penelope D. Dalton,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Services.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 991104295-9295-01; I.D. 100599D]

RIN 0648-AM74

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Dealer and Vessel Reporting Requirements; Reopening of Comment Period

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of the comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS reopens the public comment period on a proposed rule to amend the existing reporting requirements for dealers and for vessels issued a Federal permit to operate in the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, Atlantic sea scallop, Northeast (NE) multispecies, monkfish, Atlantic mackerel, squid and butterfish, surf clam or ocean quahog fisheries. The provisions of this proposed rule would also be applicable to dealers of spiny dogfish, Atlantic herring and Atlantic bluefish and vessels federally permitted in the spiny dogfish, Atlantic bluefish, and Atlantic herring fisheries when regulations implementing the Spiny Dogfish FMP, Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Bluefish FMP, and the Atlantic Herring FMP go into effect. NMFS is reopening the comment period to ensure that affected fishers and dealers are

aware of the proposed reporting changes and have an opportunity to provide comments. Proposed changes include: Increasing the retention schedule for dealer and vessel records; requiring federally-permitted dealers to complete all sections of the Annual Processed Products Report; clarifying that a vessel logbook report must be submitted for each trip taken, not for each day fished; amplifying the existing requirement that vessel logbook reports must be completed prior to entering port with fish; specifying that the pounds recorded on the vessel logbook reports should be the hail weight, by species, of all fish landed or discarded; adding definitions for "hail weight," "serial number," and "trip identifier;" requiring vessel owners/operators to provide trip identifier information to dealers; and clarifying the submission schedule for surf clam and ocean quahog dealer and vessel reports.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before 5:00 p.m., local time, on March 2, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the proposed rule should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope, "Comments on Proposed Rule for Dealer and Vessel Reporting." Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-9161. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

Comments on the burden hour estimates for collection-of-information requirements contained in this proposed rule should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: NOAA Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelley McGrath, (978) 281-9307 or Gregory Power, (978) 281-9304.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implementing the FMPs for fisheries of the Northeastern United States were prepared under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and are found at 50 CFR part 648. The provisions of this proposed rule, if approved and implemented, would also be applicable to dealers of spiny dogfish, herring, and bluefish, and to vessels federally permitted in the spiny dogfish, Atlantic bluefish and Atlantic herring fisheries when regulations implementing the Spiny Dogfish FMP, Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Bluefish FMP, and Atlantic Herring FMP go into effect.

The proposed rule for this action was published in the **Federal Register** on December 2, 1999 (64 FR 67551). The comment period on the proposed rule ended on January 3, 2000. During the public comment period, NMFS received two comments from dealers and no comments from fishers regarding the proposed changes to the reporting regulations. Because the lack of industry response may be an indication that industry members were not sufficiently aware of the proposed reporting changes, NMFS is reopening the comment period to allow the public additional time to review and comment on the proposed rule. The public comment period is reopened for the period February 16, 2000, through March 2, 2000.

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

Dated: February 10, 2000.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 020900B]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; public scoping hearings; public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council will hold its 102nd meeting in Honolulu, HI. A public hearing will be held on alternatives for managing sharks and creating area closures in American Samoa. These measures will be implemented by amendments to the Fishery Management Plan for the Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (Pelagics FMP). A public scoping hearing will be held on the intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fishery Management Plan for the Precious Corals Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (Precious Corals FMP).

DATES: The Council's Standing Committees will meet on February 28, 2000. The full Council meeting will be held on February 29, 2000 and March 1, and 2, 2000. The public hearings will be