

extended time is reasonable. Canada Pipe Company Limited withdrew its request for review after the 90 day period. However, the Department has determined to grant the request to rescind the review because Canada Pipe Company Limited was the only party to request the review, and withdrew its request shortly after the 90 day period; no party objected to the rescission; and it otherwise is reasonable to rescind the review based on Canada Pipe Company Limited's withdrawal at this time.

This determination is issued and published in accordance with section 751 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1675) and 19 CFR 351.213(d)(4).

Dated: August 21, 1998.

**Maria Harris Tildon,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Import Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.080498D]

#### Caribbean Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service; Public Hearings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings and public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public hearings on its draft Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Generic Amendment to the Fishery Management Plans of the U.S. Caribbean (draft Generic EFH Amendment). The Council is developing its EFH Generic Amendment to address EFH-related requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

NMFS is developing an EFH recommendation to the Council on its Generic EFH Amendment in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The NMFS EFH recommendation to the Council will involve NMFS' review of, and comments on, the Council's draft Generic EFH Amendment. The NMFS recommendation to the Council will be available for public distribution on August 31, 1998, and also will be available to the public at the Council's hearings. NMFS will hold a public

hearing on its draft EFH recommendation immediately following the Council's public hearing of September 2, 1998, in St. Croix, U.S.V.I.

**DATES:** Written comments on the Council's draft Generic EFH Amendment will be accepted through September 15, 1998. Written comments on the NMFS draft EFH recommendations will be accepted through September 15, 1998. The Council's public hearings will be held on August 31, and on September 1, 2, 3, and 8, 1998. NMFS will hold a public hearing on its draft EFH recommendation on September 2, 1998 following the Council's public hearing in St. Croix, U.S.V.I.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearings will be held in the U.S. Virgin Islands and in Puerto Rico. For specific hearing locations and times, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. Copies of the Council's draft Generic EFH Amendment can be obtained by calling the Council at (787) 766-5926. Written comments on the draft Generic EFH Amendment should be sent to the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577; fax (787) 766-6239. Copies of the NMFS draft EFH recommendation can be obtained by calling the Habitat Conservation Division, NMFS Southeast Region, at (727) 570-5317. Written comments on the NMFS draft EFH recommendation should be addressed to: Habitat Conservation Division, NMFS Southeast Region, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432. Comments should be marked to indicate "Draft EFH Recommendation to CFMC."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the draft Generic EFH Amendment, contact the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577; telephone (787) 766-5926; fax (787) 766-6239. For information on the NMFS draft EFH recommendation, contact the Habitat Conservation Division, NMFS Southeast Region, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; telephone (727) 570-5317.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will hold six public hearings on a draft Generic EFH Amendment addressing EFH in the U.S. Caribbean. The Generic EFH Amendment would amend all of the Council's approved and implemented fishery management plans (FMPs) to address the EFH requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The description and identification of EFH for these FMPs is mandated by sections 303(a)(7) and 305 (b) of the Magnuson-

Stevens Act. The following is a summary of the draft Generic EFH Amendment:

1. EFH is identified and described based on areas where various life stages of the 17 selected managed species and the coral complex commonly occur. The selected species are: Nassau grouper, *Epinephelus striatus*, red hind, *Epinephelus guttatus*, coney, *Epinephelus fulvus*, yellowtail, *Ocyurus chrysurus*, mutton, *Lutjanus analis*, school master, *Lutjanus apodus*, grey snapper, *Lutjanus griseus*, silk snapper, *Lutjanus vivants*, butterfly fish, *Chaetodon sprattus*, squirrel fish, *Holocentrus ascensionis*, white grunt, *Haemulon plumber*, queen triggerfish, *Balistes vetula*, tilefish, *Malacanthus plumieri*, redtail parrot fish, *Sparisoma chrysopteron*, trunk fish, *Lactophrys quadricornis*, spiny lobster, *Panulirus argus*, and queen conch, *Strombus gigas*.

2. The selected species represent some of the key species under management by the Council. Collectively, these species commonly occur throughout all the marine and estuarine waters of the U.S. Caribbean. EFH for the remaining managed species will be addressed in future FMP amendments, as appropriate.

3. EFH is defined as everywhere that the above managed species commonly occur. Because these species collectively occur in all habitats of the U.S. Caribbean, the EFH includes all waters and substrates (mud, sand, shell, rock, and associated biological communities), including subtidal vegetation (seagrasses and algae) and adjacent intertidal vegetation (wetland and mangroves). Therefore, EFH includes virtually all marine waters and substrates (mud, shell, rock, coral reefs, and associated biological communities) from the shoreline to the seaward limit of the EEZ.

4. Threats to EFH from fishing and nonfishing activities are identified.

5. Whenever possible, options to conserve and enhance EFH are provided and research needs are identified.

6. No management measures and, therefore, no regulations are proposed at this time. Fishing-related management measures to minimize any identified impacts are deferred to future amendments when the Council has the information necessary to decide if the measures are practicable.

#### Hearings

The Council hearings will be held in the following locations and times:

Monday, August 31, 1998, from 7-10 p.m. at the Legislature Building in Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S.V.I.;

Tuesday, September 1, 1998, from 7–10 p.m., at the Legislature Building in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.;

Wednesday, September 2, 1998, from 7–10 p.m., at the Conference Room of the Caravelle Hotel, in St. Croix, U.S.V.I.;

Thursday, September 3, 1998, from 7–10 p.m., at the Conference Room of the Holiday Inn Hotel in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (Holiday Inn Hotel address is 2701 Highway Number 2, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00680);

Tuesday, September 8, 1998, from 1–3 p.m., at the Casa Alcaldia of Fajardo, Fajardo, Puerto Rico; and

Tuesday, September 8, 1998, from 7–10 p.m., at the Travelodge Hotel in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico (Travelodge Hotel address is 1313 Isla Verde Avenue, Carolina, Puerto Rico).

NMFS is developing an EFH recommendation to the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The NMFS EFH recommendation to the Council involves a review of, and comments on, the Council's draft Generic EFH Amendment. The NMFS draft recommendation to the Council will be available for public distribution on August 31, 1998, and will be available at the Council's public hearings. Copies may be requested from the NMFS Habitat Conservation Division (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments on the NMFS draft EFH recommendation may be sent to the NMFS Habitat Conservation Division, Southeast Region (see **ADDRESSES**). A public hearing will be held on the draft NMFS EFH recommendation immediately following the Council's September 2, 1998, public hearing in St. Croix, U.S.V.I.

### Special Accommodation

The hearings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. They are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon at the council at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Dated: August 21, 1998.

### Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98–23015 Filed 8–24–98; 2:48 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081298B]

### Endangered Species; Permits

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of applications for scientific research permits (1169, 1175) and a modification to a scientific research permit (990); Issuance of scientific research permits (1126, 1156) and a modification to a scientific research permit (1116)

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement: NMFS has received permit applications from: U.S. Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest at Sandy, OR (MHNH)(1169) and U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest at Vancouver, WA (GPNF)(1175); NMFS has received an application for a modification to an existing permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California State Office, Sacramento, CA (FWS)(990); NMFS has issued permits to: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Olympia, WA (WDFW)(1126) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (1156); and NMFS has issued a modification to a scientific research permit to Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (PUDDC)(1116).

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the applications must be received on or before September 28, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The applications and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

For permit 990: Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404–6528 (707–575–6066).

For permits 1116, 1126, 1156, 1169, and 1175: Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232–4169 (503–230–5400).

All documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3226 (301–713–1401).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For permit 990: Tom Hablett, Protected Resources Division, (707–575–6066).

For permit 1126: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (503–230–5424).

For permits 1116, 1156, 1169, and 1185: Tom Lichatowich, Portland, OR (503–230–5438).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Authority

Permits are requested under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531–1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217–227).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on these requests for permits should set out the specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the below application summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Issuance of these permits and modifications, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permits, modifications: (1) Were applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. These permits and modifications, were also issued in accordance with and are subject to parts 217–222 of Title 50 CFR, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

#### Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are covered in this notice: Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

To date, protective regulations for threatened lower Columbia River (LCR) steelhead under section 4(d) of the ESA have not been promulgated by NMFS. This notice of receipt of applications requesting takes of this species is issued as a precaution in the event that NMFS issues protective regulations that prohibit takes of threatened LCR steelhead. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on these applications, including their proposed takes of threatened LCR steelhead, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations.

#### New Applications Received

MHNF (1169) requests a 5-year permit for a direct take of adult and juvenile, threatened, LCR steelhead associated with four routine fish distribution and