

Steelhead Recreational Fishery—
Ringold: August 1 through December 31.

Sturgeon tagging stock assessment:
May through July.

Fall Selective Gear Test Fishery:
September through October.

Wanapum Tribe Subsistence Fishery :
September.

ESA-listed fish incidental mortalities associated with the ODFW and WDFW fishery programs are requested at levels specified in the Permit application. ODFW/WDFW are proposing to limit state in-river fisheries such that the incidental impacts on ESA-listed salmonids will be minimized. Eight alternatives for the ODFW and WDFW fisheries were provided in the Plan, including: (1) Historic baseline; (2) 1988 Columbia River Fish Management Plan; (3) 1996–1998 Management Agreement; (4) 1999 Management Agreement; (5) 1996–1999 actual impact rates; (6) equitable non-Indian and treaty Indian chinook allocation; (7) reasonable non-Indian fishery opportunity (selected alternative); and (8) No action.

Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact

The EA package includes a draft EA and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which concludes that issuing the incidental take permit is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. Three Federal action alternatives have been analyzed in the EA, including: (1) the no action alternative; (2) issue a permit without conditions; and (3) issue a permit with conditions.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed anadromous salmonids under the jurisdiction of NMFS. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all public comments received during the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 24, 2000.

Wanda L. Cain,

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

[FR Doc. 00–13431 Filed 5–26–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 000204026–0136–02; I.D. 121799A]

RIN 0648–AN48

Tautog; Interstate Fishery Management Plans; Cancellation of Moratorium

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

ACTION: Notice of determination of compliance; cancellation of moratorium.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) announces the cancellation of the Federal moratorium on fishing for tautog in the coastal waters of the State of Rhode Island that would have been implemented on June 15, 2000. The Secretary has canceled the moratorium as required by the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Act), based on his determination that the State of Rhode Island is now in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (Commission) Interstate Fishery Management Plan (ISFMP) for tautog, after the Commission had notified the Secretary that it was withdrawing its determination of noncompliance.

DATES: Effective May 30, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard H. Schaefer, Chief, Staff Office for Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries, NMFS, 301–427–2014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On February 15, 2000, NMFS published a document in the **Federal Register** (FR) (65 FR 7508) announcing the Secretary's determination that the State of Rhode Island was not in compliance with the Commission's ISFMP for tautog for not implementing and enforcing the recreational bag limit contained in the ISFMP for tautog. In the document a moratorium was declared on fishing for tautog in Rhode Island state waters that would be made effective on June 15, 2000, if Rhode Island was not in compliance by June 1, 2000. Details were provided in the

February 15, 2000, FR document and are not repeated here.

The Act specifies that, if, after a moratorium is declared with respect to a State, the Secretary is notified by the Commission that it is withdrawing the determination of noncompliance, the Secretary shall immediately determine whether the State is in compliance with the applicable plan. If the State is determined to be in compliance, the moratorium shall be terminated.

Activities Pursuant to the Act

On April 28, 2000, the Secretary received a letter from the Commission prepared pursuant to the Act. The Commission's letter stated that the State of Rhode Island had taken corrective action to comply with the Commission's ISFMP for tautog, and, therefore, the Commission was withdrawing its determination of noncompliance.

Cancellation of the Moratorium

Based on the Commission's April 28, 2000, letter, information received from the State of Rhode Island, and the Secretary's review of Rhode Island's revised regulations, which adopted a recreational bag limit of 3 tautog from May 1–October 14 annually, and 10 tautog from October 15–December 31 annually with a size limit of 16 inches total length, the Secretary concurs with the Commission's determination that Rhode Island is now in compliance with the Commission's ISFMP for tautog. This combination of measures is listed in Table 14 of the ISFMP for tautog as an acceptable means of achieving the required recreational harvest reduction. This combination achieves a 57-percent reduction whereas the ISFMP requires a 55-percent reduction. Therefore, the moratorium on fishing for these species in Rhode Island waters is canceled.

Dated: May 22, 2000.

Penelope D. Dalton,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00–13373 Filed 5–26–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052200A]

International Whaling Commission; Meetings

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