

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. Seven alternatives for the ODFW and WDFW fisheries were provided in the Plan, including: (1) historic baseline; (2) Columbia River Fish Management Plan; (3) Willamette subbasin Plan; (4) Willamette spring Chinook fishery Management and evaluation Plan; (5) 1996-99 Management agreement Limits; (6) 1996-99 Actual Harvest Rates; and (7) 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. Two Federal action alternatives have been analyzed in the EA, including: (1) the no action alternative; and (2) issue a permit with conditions.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10 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: December 7, 2000.

**Wanda L. Cain,**

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

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**BILLING CODE: 3510-22 -S**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[Docket No. 000803225-0326-02; I.D. 062900B]

RIN 0648-AO34

#### **American Shad; 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 American shad in the coastal waters of the State of South Carolina that would have been implemented on January 5, 2001. 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 South Carolina is now in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (Commission) Interstate Fishery Management Plan (ISFMP) for Shad and River Herring, after the Commission had notified the Secretary that it was withdrawing its determination of noncompliance.

**DATES:** Effective December 12, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

On August 16, 2000, NMFS published a document in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 49969) announcing the Secretary's determination that the State of South Carolina was not in compliance with the Commission's ISFMP for Shad and River Herring for not implementing and enforcing the 10-fish creel limit contained in the ISFMP for American shad. In the document a moratorium was declared on fishing for American shad in South Carolina state waters that would be made effective on January 5, 2001, if South Carolina was not found to be in compliance by December 15, 2000. Details were provided in the August 16, 2000, **Federal Register** 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 November 7, 2000, the Secretary received a letter from the Commission prepared pursuant to the Act. The Commission's letter, dated November 6, 2000, stated that the State of South Carolina had taken corrective action to comply with the Commission's ISFMP for Shad and River Herring, and, therefore, the Commission was withdrawing its determination of noncompliance.

#### **Cancellation of the Moratorium**

Based on the Commission's November 6, 2000, letter, information received from the State of South Carolina, and the Secretary's review of South Carolina's revised regulations, the Secretary concurs with the Commission's determination that South Carolina is now in compliance with the Commission's ISFMP for Shad and River Herring. The State has adopted a creel limit of 10 American shad in all watersheds except one. In that one watershed the 10-fish creel compliance requirement has been met through the imposition of management measures that provide conservation equivalency. Therefore, the moratorium on fishing for American shad in South Carolina waters is canceled.

Dated: December 6, 2000.

**William T. Hogarth,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-31626 Filed 12-11-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[Docket No. 001027300-0300-01]

RIN 0648-ZA96

#### **The Argo Project: Global Ocean Observations for Understanding and Prediction of Climate Variability**

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the Office of