

no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on April 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the draft EA should be addressed to Herb Pollard, Salmon Recovery Division, 10215 W. Emerald, Suite 180, Boise, ID 83704, or faxed to (208) 378-5699. Comments on this draft EA may be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is

JCAPE.nwr@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line the following document identifier: "JCAPE permit assessment". The documents are also available on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfsh/10permits/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Herb Pollard, Boise, ID, at phone number (208) 378-5614 or e-mail: *herbert.pollard@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is relevant to the following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESUs):

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened Snake River spring/summer-run.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened Snake River Basin.

Background

NEPA requires Federal agencies to conduct an environmental analysis of their proposed actions to determine if the actions may affect the human environment. NMFS expects to take action on an ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) submittal received from the applicants. Therefore the Service is seeking public input on the scope of the required NEPA analysis, including the range of reasonable alternatives and associated impacts of any alternatives.

The Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) has submitted an application for a section 10(a)(1)(A) enhancement permit for operation of an artificial propagation program on Johnson Creek, ID. Notice of receipt of this permit application was published in the **Federal Register** on May 11, 2000 (65 FR 30391) and closed on June 12, 2000.

The primary goal of CRITFC's proposed hatchery supplementation program is to increase the abundance of the natural chinook salmon population in Johnson Creek and to avoid further losses of the genetic variation that may be necessary to recover the population. NMFS proposes to issue a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit for operation of the program to rear and release approximately 100,000 juveniles annually. The artificial propagation action would include collecting and spawning adult threatened Snake River

spring/summer chinook salmon, using the resulting progeny in scientific research, enhancing the propagation or survival of the listed population, and subsequently releasing juveniles that are the progeny of listed fish into the wild. The Nez Perce Tribe, acting under the permit requested by CRITFC, also proposes to install and operate a weir, a trap, and holding facilities for collection of listed Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon adults from Johnson Creek to enhance the propagation and conduct research on the listed species of salmon.

The general effects on the environment considered include the impacts on the physical, biological, and socioeconomic environments of the Snake River Basin, particularly in the Johnson Creek sub-basin.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

Phil Williams,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030304F]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Trawl Survey Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), and several independent scientific researchers, will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, April 16, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Airport Hotel Providence, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI; telephone: 401-739-3000.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Room 2115, Dover, DE 19904.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management

Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to assist the NEFSC in developing effective and consistent trawl survey protocols and practices for the trawl surveys. The Committee will be describing what they envision the scientific sampling gear should do in terms of the sampling focus and performance. They will be making recommendations on the new gear fishing package for the new research vessel.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Mid-Atlantic Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 4, 2004.

Peter H. Fricke,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030304E]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee in March, 2004 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will