than those in the Snake River Basin so that they do not spawn in the Snake River above Lower Granite Dam. Third, to facilitate research efforts including the capture of fish to measure the relative reproductive success of hatchery fish being used for natural supplementation and thereby monitor the success of that program. Fourth, to monitor the status of steelhead populations in the Snake River basin.

Fish species will benefit in several ways: by providing broodstock for Lyons Ferry Hatchery and Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery, the program will continue its efforts in directly increasing the abundance of the listed stocks. Removing salmon that stray from other hatchery programs will reduce adverse ecological and genetic interactions and preserve the listed stock. Information from the captured steelhead is essential to monitor the status and productivity of the listed populations, to help managers make decisions about how best to operate the hydropower system, and to gauge the effectiveness of a number of recovery efforts.

The fish would be captured at the Lower Granite Dam adult trap. Electronic controls direct fish passing through the ladder into a trap holding facility for small portions of each day. When not directed into the trap, most fish pass the ladder unimpeded. Trapped fish are anesthetized, examined, biological samples are taken, and the fish are either (1) returned to the ladder to continue their upstream migration (all of the steelhead and most of the chinook salmon), (2) selected for broodstock (in the case of a portion of the hatchery-origin and natural-origin chinook salmon), or (3) removed from the population (all hatchery-origin chinook salmon that are identified by tags or marks as strays from other hatcheries). Transport to one of the hatchery facilities of fish collected for broodstock occurs daily during peak run periods. Some natural-origin Snake River fall chinook salmon would be collected to integrate into the broodstock. Scale sampling may occur on-site prior to transport to the hatcheries. In addition, up to 250 more scale samples from natural origin fish are needed to provide an accurate description of run composition. Once sampled, fish not collected for broodstock are allowed to recover in small tanks and then returned to the fish ladder to continue their upstream migration.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decisions will not be made until after the end of the 30–day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 17, 2005.

Phil Williams,

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

[FR Doc. 05–10129 Filed 5–19–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051705B]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene its Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

DATES: The meeting will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2005, and from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree Guest Suites Tampa Bay, 3050 North Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 North U.S. Highway 301, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813.228.2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene the first meeting of its newly formed Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) in Tampa, FL on June 9–10, 2005. The SSC will receive a presentation on EcoGIS, a pilot project that brings the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), and the eight regional fishery management councils together to build on existing regional geographic information systems (GIS) capabilities; more fully develop GIS tools for managing and researching marine fishery ecosystems; and review the project's role in the development of an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management. The SSC will also review the findings of a workshop by ecosystem scientists that was held in February on ecosystem-based decision support tools for fisheries management. They will review a NMFS report titled *Strategies for Incorporating Ecosystem Considerations in Fisheries Management* and review an interim report of an ad hoc working group on guidelines for fishery ecosystem plans.

The SSC will then meet with the Council's ecosystem workshop facilitator and provide advice on issues to include in an upcoming series of public workshops on ecosystem based fisheries management. The SSC will review its role in identification of technical needs, establishing an inventory of existing information, and synthesizing public input on ecosystem goals and objectives.

A copy of the agenda and related materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813.228.2815.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Ecosystem SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Ecosystem SSC will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the M-SFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by May 31, 2005.

Dated: May 17, 2005.

Tracey Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E5–2528 Filed 5–19–05; 8:45 am]

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