DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XA111
Notice of Availability of a Draft Framework for Ranking the Relative Importance of Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Populations and Watersheds for ESA Recovery and Delisting

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

ACTION: Notice; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reopening the comment period for a draft technical framework for ranking recovery potential of populations of Puget Sound Chinook salmon and watersheds supporting them. The comment period is being reopened to provide additional opportunity for public comment.

DATES: Information and comments on the draft framework must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see ADDRESSES), no later than 5 p.m. on February 22, 2011. We encourage the public’s involvement in reviewing this framework.

ADDRESSES: Information and comments on this draft framework should be submitted to Garth Griffin, Chief, Protected Resources Division, NMFS. Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (503) 230–5435 or by e-mail. The framework document is also available on the Internet at http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/Recovery-Domains/Puget-Sound/PS-Chinook-Plan.cfm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Babcock, NMFS, Northwest Region, (206) 526–4505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Reopening of Comment Period

The comment period will be reopened through February 22, 2011.

Background

NMFS published a document in the Federal Register of December 29, 2010, concerning the availability for public comment of the proposed evaluation of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) as to how the Puget Sound Chinook Resource Management Plan (RMP) addresses the criteria in Limit 6 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) 4(d) Rule. The comment period for this action ended Friday, January 28, 2011. The comment period is being reopened to provide additional opportunity for public comment. The Puget Sound Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted to NMFS, pursuant to the protective regulations promulgated for Puget Sound Chinook salmon under Limit 6 of the ESA 4(d) Rule for salmon and steelhead, a jointly developed RMP. The RMP specifies the future management of commercial, recreational, subsistence and tribal salmon fisheries potentially affecting listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon from May 1, 2010, through April 30, 2015.

Dated: January 31, 2011.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XA193
Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (Pacific Council) Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC) will hold a work session by conference call to follow up on work assignments from its December 20, 2010 meeting.

DATES: The EFHRC conference call will be held Friday, February 25, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time.

ADDRESSES: A public listening station will be available at the Pacific Council office, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220; telephone: (503) 820–2280. Please contact the Council Staff Officer for accommodations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820–2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the EFHRC meeting is to follow up on the December 20, 2010 meeting, and to check on assignments and progress toward developing a report for the April, 2011 Pacific Council meeting. The initial meeting highlighted several issues to address, as the Pacific Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conduct a review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) descriptions for Pacific Coast groundfish species. Major topics of discussion are likely to include schedule and timing; soliciting data and information from...