

appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery for the listed species.

Dated: December 12, 2016.

Donna S. Wieting,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Availability of Draft Scientific Assessment for Public Comment

AGENCY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on Behalf of the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft scientific assessment for public comment.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is publishing this notice on behalf of the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) to announce the availability of a draft assessment, the Climate Science Special Report, for a 45-day public review, collected comments will be carefully reviewed by the relevant chapter author teams. Following revision and further review, a revised draft will undergo final Federal interagency clearance.

Context: The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is mandated under the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) of 1990 to conduct a quadrennial National Climate Assessment (NCA). Under its current decadal strategic plan (<http://go.usa.gov/3qGU4>), USGCRP is building sustained assessment capacity. The sustained assessment supports the Nation's ability to understand, anticipate, and respond to risks and potential impacts brought about by global environmental change. As part of the ongoing NCA process, a Climate Science Special Report is being developed to inform the assessment. The last NCA from 2014 (NCA3: <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov>) and the process to develop it provided a foundation for subsequent activities and reports. This special report provides an update to the physical climate science presented in the 2014 National Climate Assessment (NCA). Specifically, the special report updates Chapter 2 and Appendices 3 and 4 of the 2014 NCA (<http://www.globalchange.gov/nca3-downloads-materials>). The report

provides updated climate science findings and projections, and is an important input to the authors of the next quadrennial NCA, expected in 2018.

DATES: Comments on this draft scientific assessment must be received by 11:59 p.m. ET on 28 January 2017.

ADDRESSES: The draft USGCRP Climate Science Special Report can be accessed via the USGCRP Open Notices page (<http://www.globalchange.gov/notices>) or directly at the USGCRP Review and Comment System (<https://review.globalchange.gov/>). Registration details can be found on the review site home page, and review instructions on a dedicated special report page where comments from the public will be accepted electronically. Comments may be submitted only via this online mechanism.

All comments received through this process will be considered by the relevant chapter authors without knowledge of the commenters' identities. When the final assessment is issued, the comments and the commenters' names, along with the authors' responses, will become part of the public record and made available on <http://www.globalchange.gov>. Information submitted by a commenter as part of the registration process (such as an email address) will not be disclosed publicly.

Instructions: Response to this notice is voluntary. Responses to this notice may be used by the government for program planning on a non-attribution basis. NOAA therefore requests that no business proprietary information or copyrighted information be submitted in response to this notice. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation, or for the use of any information contained in the response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

USGCRP Contact: David Dokken; telephone 202-419-3473; or email: ddokken@usgcrp.gov.

NOAA Contact: David Fahey; telephone 303-497-5277; or email: david.w.fahey@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Climate Science Special Report is a product of the USGCRP, organized and led by an interagency team. The draft assessment was written by Federal and non-Federal authors identified via an Open Call for nominations (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/03/31/2016-07208/united-states-global-change-research-program>). An interagency Federal steering committee selected authors based on their

demonstrated subject matter expertise, relevant publications, and knowledge of specific topics designated in an outline included in the special report prospectus (https://downloads.globalchange.gov/cssr/USGCRP_CSSR-Prospectus_FINAL.pdf). The draft assessment responds to the 1990 Congressional mandate to periodically produce National Climate Assessments and to assist the nation in understanding, assessing, predicting, and responding to human-induced and natural processes of global change. The report adheres to the Information Quality Act requirements (http://www.cio.noaa.gov/services_programs/info_quality.html) for quality, transparency, and accessibility as appropriate for a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment (HISA).

Dated: Tuesday, December 6, 2016.

Dan Barrie,

*Program Manager, Assessments Program,
NOAA Climate Program Office.*

Dated: December 9, 2016.

Jason Donaldson,

Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2016-30102 Filed 12-14-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF75

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice; availability of evaluation of joint state/tribal hatchery plans and request for comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Tulalip Tribes have submitted six Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans, to be considered jointly, to NMFS pursuant to the limitation on take prohibitions for actions conducted under Limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule for salmon and steelhead promulgated under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The plans specify the propagation of three species of salmon in the Snohomish River basin of Washington State. This document serves to notify the public of the availability for comment of the proposed evaluation of the Secretary of Commerce

(Secretary) as to whether implementation of the joint plans will appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead.

This notice further advises the public of the availability for review of a draft Environmental Assessment of the effects of the NMFS determination on the subject joint plans.

DATES: Comments must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific time on January 17, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the proposed evaluation and pending determination should be addressed to the Tim Tynan, NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 510 Desmond Drive, Suite 103, Lacey, WA 98503. Comments may be submitted by email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is:

SnohomishHatcheries.wcr@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the email comment the following identifier: Comments on Snohomish River hatchery programs. The documents are available on the Internet at *www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov*. Comments received will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by calling (360) 753-9579.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Tynan at (360) 753-9579 or by email at *tim.tynan@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Puget Sound.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Puget Sound.

Background

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Tulalip Tribes have submitted to NMFS plans for six jointly operated hatchery programs in the Snohomish River region. The plans were submitted from December 2012 to September 2016, pursuant to limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead. The hatchery programs release ESA-listed Chinook salmon and non-listed coho and fall chum salmon into the Snohomish River basin and nearby.

As required by the ESA 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422; July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160; June 28, 2005), the Secretary is seeking public comment on

her pending determination as to whether the joint plans for hatchery programs in the Snohomish River basin would appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the ESA-listed Puget Sound salmon and steelhead.

Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as she deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422; July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160; June 28, 2005) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. Limit 6 of the updated 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)(6)) further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the updated 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(a)) do not apply to activities associated with a joint state/tribal artificial propagation plan provided that the joint plan has been determined by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422; July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160; June 28, 2005).

Dated: December 12, 2016.

Donna S. Wieting,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE939

Endangered and Threatened Species; Recovery Plans

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: We, NMFS, announce the extension of the comment period for the *Proposed Endangered Species Act (ESA) Recovery Plan for Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon and Snake River Steelhead* (Proposed Plan) published on October 27, 2016. The Proposed Plan addresses the Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) evolutionarily significant unit (ESU), which is listed as threatened under the

ESA, and the Snake River Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) distinct population segment (DPS), which is listed as threatened under the ESA. The geographic area covered by the Proposed Plan is the lower mainstem Snake River and its tributaries, as well as the mainstem Columbia River below its confluence with the Snake River. As required under the ESA, the Proposed Plan contains objective, measurable delisting criteria, site-specific management actions necessary to achieve the Proposed Plan's goals, and estimates of the time and cost required to implement recovery actions. We are soliciting review and comment from the public and all interested parties on the Proposed Plan. The close of the comment period is being extended—from December 27, 2016, to February 9, 2017—to provide additional opportunity for public comment.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of comments on the Proposed Plan published on October 27, 2016 (81 FR 74770), is extended to close of business on February 9, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the Proposed Plan by the following methods:

- *Electronic Submissions:* Submit all electronic public comments via: *nmfs_snakeriver_sschr_st_plan.wcr@noaa.gov*. Please include "Comments on Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook and Steelhead Recovery Plan" in the subject line of the email.

- *Facsimile:* (503) 230-5441.

- *Mail:* Rosemary Furfey, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232.

Instructions: Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that they are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the comment period, may not be considered. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only. All comments received are part of the public record and NMFS will generally post for public viewing on *www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (e.g. name, address, etc), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender is publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Electronic copies of the Proposed Plan are available at: *http://*