

## Middle Columbia River Steelhead

The Middle Columbia River (MCR) steelhead covered by the proposed DBHCP are part of a larger distinct population segment (DPS). This DPS was listed under the ESA as threatened on March 25, 1999 and its status was reaffirmed on January 5, 2005 (71 FR 834). This DPS includes all naturally spawned steelhead populations originating below natural and manmade impassable barriers from the Columbia River and its tributaries upstream of the Wind and Hood Rivers (exclusive) to and including the Yakima River; excluding steelhead originating from the Snake River Basin. This DPS also includes steelhead from seven artificial propagation programs.

As a requirement of a new federal license for the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project on the Deschutes River, Portland General Electric and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Spring Reservation of Oregon initiated reintroduction of MCR steelhead, non-listed spring-run Chinook salmon and non-listed sockeye salmon upstream of the project. On January 15, 2013, NMFS designated the reintroduced MCR steelhead as a nonessential experimental population. This ruling alleviates ESA section 9 liabilities for lawful activities that may result in incidental take of reintroduced steelhead. This designation only applies to steelhead occurring upstream of Round Butte Dam, steelhead that occur below this dam retain their status as threatened. The nonessential experimental designation is set to expire on January 15, 2025 and take liabilities will apply for steelhead occurring upstream of Round Butte Dam. The DBHCP is proposed, in part, to mitigate to the maximum extent practicable the applicants' ESA liabilities for otherwise lawful activities that may result in incidental take.

## National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

Issuing an ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit constitutes a Federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) as implemented by 40 CFR parts 1500–1508. For this action, the USFWS is the lead agency under NEPA. As the lead agency, the USFWS prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and is accepting comments on the DEIS at <http://www.regulations.gov>, Docket No. FWS-R1-ES-2019-0091. More information regarding the DEIS is available at: <https://www.fws.gov/Oregonfwo/articles.cfm?id=149489716>. NMFS is a

cooperating agency for this action and proposes to adopt the USFWS' NEPA document through its own NEPA process (40 CFR 1506.3).

## Request for Comments

If you wish to comment on the proposed DBHCP, you may submit your comments to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. NMFS requests that comments be specific. In particular, we request information regarding: direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that implementation of the proposed DBHCP or other alternatives could have on MCR steelhead, spring-run Chinook salmon and sockeye salmon and their habitat; potential adaptive management and monitoring provisions; existing environmental conditions in the plan area; other plans or projects that might be relevant to this proposed project; permit duration; and minimization and mitigation efforts.

## Next Steps

NMFS provides this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. We will evaluate this permit application, proposed DBHCDP, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA. If NMFS determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for incidental take of covered species. The final permit determinations will not be made until after the end of the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 30, 2019.

**Angela Somma,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-21608 Filed 10-3-19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0649-XV088

### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a

meeting via webinar of its Standing, Reef Fish, Mackerel, and Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC).

**DATES:** The meeting will convene via webinar on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** You may register for the webinar by visiting [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) and clicking on the SSC meeting on the calendar.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ryan Rindone, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; [ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org), telephone: (813) 348-1630.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, October 29, 2019; 1 p.m.–4 p.m., EDT

The meeting will begin with Introductions, Adoption of Agenda, and review of the Scope of Work. The Committees will review the NMFS Report to Congress: Section 201 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018, review *A Practitioner's Guide to Fisheries Social Impact Assessment*, and will discuss any other business items.

#### —Meeting Adjourns

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Scientific and Statistical Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Scientific and Statistical Committee will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 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 Kathy Pereira at the Gulf Council Office (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: October 1, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**  
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable  
Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.  
[FR Doc. 2019-21650 Filed 10-3-19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XV090

#### Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of SEDAR 62 Assessment Webinar V for Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 62 stock assessment process for Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish will consist of an In-person Workshop, and a series of data and assessment webinars. See

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 62 Assessment Webinar V will be held November 13, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Eastern Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie A. Neer at SEDAR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of each webinar.

**SEDAR address:** 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 571-4366; email: [Julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:Julie.neer@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-step process including: (1) Data Workshop, (2) a series of assessment webinars, and (3) A Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a report that compiles and evaluates

potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The assessment webinars produce a report that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The product of the Review Workshop is an Assessment Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion during the Assessment Webinar are as follows:

1. Using datasets and initial assessment analysis recommended from the in-person workshop, panelists will employ assessment models to evaluate stock status, estimate population benchmarks and management criteria, and project future conditions.

2. Participants will recommend the most appropriate methods and configurations for determining stock status and estimating population parameters.

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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to each workshop.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: October 1, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**  
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable  
Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.  
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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XV089

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting (webinar).

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Salmon Technical Team and Scientific and Statistical salmon subcommittee will hold a joint methodology review meeting. This meeting will be held via webinar and is open to the public.

**DATES:** The webinar will be held Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 9 a.m. and will end at 4 p.m. or when business for the day has been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** A public listening station is available at the Pacific Council office (address below). To attend the webinar, use this link: <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar> (click "Join" in top right corner of page); (1) Enter the Webinar ID: 439-088-851; (2) Enter your name and email address (required); You must use your telephone for the audio portion of the meeting by dialing this TOLL number: 1 (415) 655-0052; (3) Enter the Attendee phone audio access code: 714-668-149. **Note:** We have disabled Mic/Speakers as an option and require all participants to use a telephone or cell phone to participate. Technical Information and System Requirements: PC-based attendees are required to use Windows® 7, Vista, or XP; Mac®-based attendees are required to use Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer; Mobile attendees are required to use iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or Android tablet (see <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar/ipad-iphone-android-webinar-apps>). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at [Kris.Kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:Kris.Kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at 503-820-2280, extension 411 for technical assistance.

**Council address:** Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE