

or the views of the U.S. Government. As part of the application review process, NOAA will also hold two virtual public hearings to receive oral public comments on these applications.

**DATES:** Comments on the applications must be received by February 23, 2026. The virtual public hearings are scheduled for January 27, 2026, and January 28, 2026, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time each day. Instructions for attending the virtual public hearings are provided below.

**ADDRESSES:** The TMC USA Application A is electronically available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2025-0702>; The TMC USA Application B is electronically available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2025-1330>.

You may send comments, identified by docket number, by either of the following means:

#### *Written Comments*

Comments must be submitted by the date and electronic method described below to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NOAA. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. Comments that are not related to the applications or that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language will not be considered. To ensure full consideration by NOAA, comments must be submitted in English. Comments that are not submitted in English may not be posted to the public dockets on regulations.gov, or considered by NOAA. All relevant comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

- For TMC USA Application A, submit all public written comments via the Federal [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) e-Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2025-0702> or go to [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and enter "NOAA-NOS-2025-0702" in the search bar.

- For TMC USA Application B, submit all public written comments via the Federal [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) e-Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2025-1330> or go to [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and enter "NOAA-NOS-2025-1330" in the search bar.

For each docket, locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list and click on the "Submit a comment" icon on the right of that line. Please note that comments will only be considered for the docket to which they are submitted. If your comment is in response to both TMC USA Application A and TMC USA Application B, you must submit two comments, one to each docket.

**Oral Comments**

You may submit oral comments for either or both applications (TMC USA Application A and/or TMC USA Application B) at either virtual public hearing. At the virtual public hearings, you will be asked to specify whether your comment is in reference to TMC USA Application A, TMC USA Application B, or both.

NOAA will conduct the virtual public hearings via Adobe Connect. Each person who wants to attend either virtual public hearing must electronically register by January 21, 2026, 5 p.m. Eastern Time. Attendance at each virtual public hearing will be limited to 1,000 individuals for each of the two dates; therefore, NOAA requests that individuals register and attend only one hearing, on either January 27 or January 28, 2026. To register for either hearing, use the following link: [https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/evxcqr87egzq/event/event\\_info.html](https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/evxcqr87egzq/event/event_info.html).

Any person who registers and wants to speak at a virtual public hearing should indicate that they want to speak during registration. Each registered participant will receive an Adobe Connect link for the virtual public hearing. Once the virtual public hearing starts, NOAA will describe the virtual public hearing logistics. NOAA will then start the public comment part of the virtual public hearing and will call on speakers on a first come/first served basis through the raised hand function of Adobe Connect. NOAA will then unmute the person speaking. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak on either or both applications (TMC USA Application A and/or TMC USA Application B). If a speaker does not respond when they are called on, NOAA will move to the next speaker. At the three-minute mark for each speaker, NOAA will mute that speaker. Speakers cannot allot their time to another speaker. Once all speakers have spoken, or at the scheduled end of the virtual public hearing, whichever is earlier, NOAA will end the virtual public hearing. NOAA retains discretion to

extend the virtual public hearing if appropriate and feasible. NOAA will record each hearing and will include transcripts of the hearings on the public dockets for each of the TMC USA Applications on the regulations.gov website at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2025-0702> for TMC USA Application A and at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2025-1330> for TMC USA Application B. The names provided by each speaker will also be published as part of the transcripts.

The virtual public hearings do not replace the process for submission of written comments. NOAA will not respond during the hearings to oral comments or questions. To ensure full consideration by NOAA, oral comments must be in English. Comments that are not in English may not be transcribed or considered by NOAA.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kerry Kehoe, (240) 560-8518, [kerry.kehoe@noaa.gov](mailto:kerry.kehoe@noaa.gov).

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 1426(a)(1).

Neil A. Jacobs,

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2025-23795 Filed 12-19-25; 4:15 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF214]

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

**ACTION:** Notice; availability of a proposed evaluation and pending determination for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received a Hatchery and Genetics Management Plan (HGMP) for seven hatchery programs rearing and releasing fall Chinook salmon, spring Chinook salmon, fall chum salmon, sockeye salmon, coho salmon and steelhead in the Skokomish River basin. The plan describes a hatchery program operated by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in collaboration with the Skokomish Indian Tribe and Tacoma Power Utility as co-managers. This document serves to notify the public of the availability

and opportunity to comment on a Proposed Evaluation and Pending Determination Documents (PEPD) on implementing the proposed hatchery program and enforcing the associated HGMP, which concludes that it will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery nor modify or destroy critical habitat of Hood Canal-Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, or Puget Sound steelhead.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on January 22, 2026. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2025–0736, by the following method:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Visit <https://www.regulations.gov> and type NOAA–NMFS–2025–0736 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- The HGMP is available online concurrently while the comment period for the PEPD is open at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/hatcheries/hgmp#comment>.

**Instructions:** Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://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 will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chante Davis at (503) 321–2307; or by email at [chante.davis@noaa.gov](mailto:chante.davis@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Endangered Species Act (ESA)-Listed Species Covered in This Notice**

- Hood Canal-Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated;
- Puget Sound Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated; and
- Puget Sound Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated.

**Background**

The term “take” is defined under the ESA to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The ESA prohibits the take of endangered salmonids and, pursuant to ESA section 4(d), ESA regulations can be extended to prohibit the take of threatened salmonids. However, NMFS may make exceptions to the take prohibitions for hatchery programs that are approved by NMFS under the limits on the prohibitions outlined in 50 CFR 223.203(b). The operators, WDFW collaborating with tribal co-manager Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, have submitted an HGMP to NMFS pursuant to NMFS’ Limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule of the ESA for hatchery activities in the Skokomish River basin, Washington. The PEPD is NMFS’ initial determination for how the HGMP addresses the criteria in 50 CFR 223.203(b)(5).

The hatchery program under review is designed to contribute to the reintroduction and recovery of Chinook salmon, sockeye salmon and steelhead in the Skokomish River basin. These fish contribute to the stability of Pacific salmon fish stocks in order to maintain sustainable U.S. fisheries and strengthen the national seafood supply chain. The hatchery programs are intended to contribute to fulfilling federal trust responsibilities toward Tribes with rights guaranteed through treaties, as affirmed in *United States v. Washington* (1974), by contributing to the recovery of ESA-listed salmon. Additionally, the programs are intended to contribute to the survival and recovery of Puget Sound Chinook Salmon and Puget Sound Steelhead, provide information on exploitation rates, and support returns of coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and sockeye salmon to the Skokomish River basin.

**Classification**

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as deemed necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. The rule further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the rule do not apply to actions undertaken in compliance with a plan developed jointly by a state and a tribe and determined by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and

steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 742a *et seq.*

Dated: December 18, 2025.

**Jennifer Leigh Quan,**

*Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Alaska Community Quota Entity (CQE) Program**

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on July 15, 2025 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**Title:** Alaska Community Quota (CQE) Program.

**OMB Control Number:** 0648–0665.

**Form Number(s):** None.

**Type of Request:** Regular submission [revision and extension of a current information collection].

**Number of Respondents:** 62.

**Average Hours per Response:**

Application for a Non-profit Corporation to be Designated as a CQE: 200 hours; Transfer applications: 2 hours; Application for a CQE to Receive a Non-trawl Groundfish LLP License: 20 hours; Application for Community Charter Halibut Permit: 1 hour; CQE Annual Report: 40 hours; CQE LLP Authorization Letter: 1 hour.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** 1,355 hours.

**Needs and Uses:** This is a request for revision and extension of an approved information collection. The National