

and consulting with interested federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. During the evaluation, NOAA will consider the extent to which the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has met the national objectives and has adhered to the management plan approved by the Secretary of Commerce, the requirements of Section 315 of the CZMA, and the terms of financial assistance under the CZMA. When the evaluation is complete, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the final evaluation findings.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*)

Keelin S. Kuipers,

Acting Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026-03268 Filed 2-18-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF527]

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a webinar of its Risk Policy Working Group to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This webinar will be held on Monday, March 9, 2025, at 11 a.m. EST.

Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/j/920Vpt4SXSedrvme86RCg>.

ADDRESSES: *Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The Risk Policy Working Group will meet to plan the use of the Risk Policy Concept with Harvest Control Rules in Council actions. They will recommend further refinements to Risk Policy Concept, including the mechanics of the Risk Policy and the data used to score factors. The Working Group will also consider how the Risk Policy can be used to support longer-term (up to 5 years) specification setting. They will also prepare for a Council weightings exercise in June 2026. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 17, 2026.

Becky J. Curtis,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-03298 Filed 2-18-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF552]

Gulf 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 Fishery Management Council will hold a half-day virtual

meeting of its *Shrimp* Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The meeting will convene Monday, March 9, 2026, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., EDT. For agenda details, see

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held virtually. Registration information will be available on the Council's website by visiting <https://www.gulfcouncil.org> and clicking on the Shrimp AP meeting on the calendar.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Matt Freeman, Economist, Gulf Fishery Management Council; matt.freeman@gulfcouncil.org, telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the agenda, though agenda items may be addressed out of order (changes will be noted on the Council's website when possible.)

Monday, March 9, 2026; 9 a.m.–1 p.m. EDT

The virtual meeting will begin with Introduction of Members, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Summary from March 4, 2025 Meeting, and Scope of Work. The AP will review and discuss Council Actions in Response to Motions from the March 2025 *Shrimp* AP Meeting and receive a snapshot of *Shrimp* Stock Assessment and SSC recommendations. The AP will also receive updates on Gulf and Import *Shrimp* Prices and on 2024 *Gulf Shrimp* Fishery Landings, and review the 2025 Texas Closure and 2024 *Royal Red* Landings.

The AP will review Congressional Funding of Data Collection, receive any public testimony and discuss other business items.

Meeting Adjourns—

This is a virtual only meeting. You may register by visiting <https://www.gulfcouncil.org> and clicking on the *Shrimp* Advisory Panel meeting on the calendar.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on <https://www.gulfcouncil.org> as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Advisory Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid or accommodations should be directed to Kathy Pereira, kathy.pereira@gulfcouncil.org, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 17, 2026.

Becky J. Curtis,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-03302 Filed 2-18-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 260217-0048]

RTID 0648-XR129

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of 12-Month Finding on a Petition To List the Washington Coast Chinook Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit as Threatened or Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act

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

ACTION: Notice of 12-month petition finding.

SUMMARY: NMFS has completed a comprehensive status review of the Washington Coast (WC) Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) in response to a petition to list this species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to designate critical habitat concurrently with the listing. Based on the best scientific and commercial information available, including the status review report, and after considering efforts being made to protect the species, NMFS has determined that the WC Chinook salmon ESU does not warrant listing.

DATES: This finding was made available on February 19, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The petition, status review report, **Federal Register** notices, and the list of references can be accessed electronically online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/petition-list-washington-coast-chinook-salmon-threatened-or-endangered-under-esa>. The peer review report is available online at: <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/information-technology/peer-review-plans>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shivonne Nesbit, NMFS West Coast Region, at shivonne.nesbit@noaa.gov, (503) 231-6741; or Jennifer Schultz, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, at jennifer.schultz@noaa.gov, (301) 427-8443.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On July 17, 2023, the Secretary of Commerce received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity and Pacific Rivers (hereafter, the Petitioners) to list spring-run Chinook salmon on the WC as a threatened or endangered ESU under the ESA or, alternatively, list WC Chinook salmon (inclusive of all run types) as a threatened or endangered ESU. The Petitioners also requested the designation of critical habitat concurrent with ESA listing. On December 7, 2023, NMFS published a positive 90-day finding (88 FR 85178) announcing that the petition presented substantial scientific and commercial information indicating the petitioned action to list the WC Chinook salmon ESU may be warranted. NMFS also announced the initiation of a status review of the species, as required by section 4(b)(3)(A) of the ESA, and requested information to inform the agency's decision on whether the species warrants listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA. NMFS received information from the public in response to the 90-day finding and incorporated that information into both the status review report and this 12-month finding. This information complemented NMFS's thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial data for the species (*see Status Review* below).

Listing Determinations Under the ESA

NMFS is responsible for determining whether species under its jurisdiction are threatened or endangered under the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). To make a determination whether a species meets the definition of threatened or endangered under the ESA, NMFS first considers whether the species

constitutes a "species" as defined under section 3 of the ESA, then whether the status of the species qualifies it for listing as either threatened or endangered. Section 3 of the ESA defines "species" to include "any subspecies of fish or wildlife or plants, and any distinct population segment of any species of vertebrate fish or wildlife which interbreeds when mature" (16 U.S.C. 1532(16)). In 1991, NMFS issued the Policy on Applying the Definition of Species Under the Endangered Species Act to Pacific Salmon ("ESU Policy"; 56 FR 58612, November 20, 1991). Under the ESU Policy, a Pacific salmon population is a distinct population segment (DPS), and hence a species under the ESA, if it represents an ESU of the biological species. The ESU Policy identifies two criteria for making ESU determinations: (1) the population must be substantially reproductively isolated from other conspecific population units and (2) it must represent an important component in the evolutionary legacy of the species. The first criterion, reproductive isolation, need not be absolute, but must be strong enough to permit evolutionarily important differences to accrue in different population units. A population would meet the second criterion if it contributes substantially to the ecological and genetic diversity of the species as a whole.

NMFS uses the ESU Policy exclusively for delineating DPS of Pacific salmon. A joint NMFS-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (jointly, "the Services") policy clarifies the Services' interpretation of the phrase "distinct population segment" for the purposes of listing, delisting, and reclassifying a species under the ESA ("DPS Policy"; 61 FR 4722, February 7, 1996). In announcing this policy, the Services indicated that the ESU Policy was consistent with the DPS Policy and that NMFS would continue to use the ESU Policy for Pacific salmon.

Section 3 of the ESA further defines an endangered species as "any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range" and a threatened species as one "which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range" (16 U.S.C. 1532(6), (20)). Thus, NMFS interprets an "endangered species" to be one that is presently in danger of extinction. A "threatened species," on the other hand, is not presently in danger of extinction, but is likely to become so in the foreseeable future.

In determining whether a species qualifies as a threatened species, the