

evaluation, the preferred action is to retain the Bruneau Hot Springsnail as an endangered species. The species persists in only a few isolated thermal springs and seeps in Hot Creek and along an 8 km (5 mi) reach of the Bruneau River characterized by temperatures ranging from 15.7 to 35° C (60.3 to 95°). The free-flowing thermal spring and seep environments required by the Bruneau Hot Springsnail have been impacted by and are vulnerable to continued reduction from agricultural-related ground water withdrawal/pumping. The species and its habitat are also vulnerable to habitat modification from the effects of flash floods. The remaining complex of thermally related springs and their immediate outflows are not protected from the threats previously discussed. Existing regulations do not provide adequate protection to prevent further direct or indirect habitat losses. The Bruneau Hot Springsnail is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and therefore, fits the definition of endangered as defined in the Act.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment, as defined under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. A notice outlining the Service's reasons for this determination was published in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

Author

The primary author of this rule is Jeri Wood, Snake River Basin Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 386, Boise, Idaho (208/378-5243).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: June 5, 1998.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 98-16099 Filed 6-16-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AE97

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing of Several Evolutionarily Significant Units of West Coast Steelhead

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is adding several Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of west coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (List) in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Southern California and Upper Columbia River Basin ESUs are added as endangered, and the Central California Coast, South-Central California Coast, Snake River Basin, Lower Columbia River, and Central Valley California ESUs are added as threatened. This amendment is based on determinations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, which has jurisdiction for this species.

DATES: The effective date for listing of the Southern California and Upper Columbia River Basin ESUs as endangered and the Central California Coast, South-Central California Coast, and Snake River Basin ESUs as threatened is October 17, 1997. The effective date for listing of the Lower Columbia River and Central Valley California ESUs as threatened is May 18, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 452, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. LaVerne Smith, Chief, Division of Endangered Species, at the above address or telephone 703/358-2171.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In accordance with the Act and Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970, NMFS has jurisdiction over west coast steelhead. Under section 4(a)(2) of the Act, NMFS must decide whether a species under its jurisdiction should be classified as endangered or threatened. The Service is responsible for the actual amendment of the List in 50 CFR 17.11(h).

On August 9, 1996, NMFS published a proposed rule to list as endangered or threatened 10 ESUs of west coast steelhead in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California (61 FR 41541). On August 18, 1997, NMFS published a final rule listing five of these ESUs: the Southern California and Upper Columbia River Basin ESUs were listed as endangered, and the Central California Coast, South-Central California Coast, and Snake River Basin ESUs were listed as threatened (62 FR 43937).

Also on August 18, 1997, NMFS published a notice announcing that substantial scientific disagreement remained for the remaining five ESUs proposed for listing on August 9, 1996. The notice extended the deadline for a final listing determination for these five ESUs for 6 months to solicit, collect, and analyze additional information from NMFS scientists, co-management scientists, and scientific experts to enable NMFS to make a final listing determination based on the best available data. On March 19, 1998, NMFS published a final rule listing two of these five ESUs, the Lower Columbia River and the Central Valley California ESUs, as threatened (63 FR 13347).

The proposed rules identified above solicited comments from peer reviewers, the public, and all other interested parties. The final rules addressed the comments received in response to the proposed rules. Because NMFS provided public comment periods on the proposed rules, and because this action of the Service to amend the List in accordance with the determinations by NMFS is nondiscretionary, the Service has omitted the notice and public comment procedures of 5 U.S.C. 553(b) for this action.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment, as defined under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to section 4(a) of the Act. A notice outlining the Service's reasons for this determination was published in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Regulation Promulgation

Accordingly, the Service amends part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of

the Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4245; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500, unless otherwise noted.

2. Amend section 17.11(h) by adding the following, in alphabetical order

under FISHERIES, to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife:

§ 17.11 Endangered and threatened wildlife.

* * * * *

(h) * * *

Species		Historic range	Vertebrate population where endangered or threatened	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Common name	Scientific name						
* FISHES	* 	* 	* 	* 	* 		*
* Steelhead	* <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss.</i>	* North Pacific Ocean from the Kamchatka Peninsula in Asia to the northern Baja Peninsula.	* All naturally spawned populations (and their progeny) in rivers from the Santa Maria R., San Luis Obispo County, CA (inclusive) to Malibu Cr., Los Angeles County, CA (inclusive).	* E	* 638	NA	* NA
Do .....	.....do .....	.....do	All naturally spawned populations (and their progeny) in the Upper Columbia R. Basin upstream from the Yakima R., WA, to the U.S./Canada border, and also including the Wells Hatchery stock.	E	638	NA	NA
Do .....	.....do .....	.....do	All naturally spawned populations (and their progeny) in streams from the Russian R. to Aptos Cr., Santa Cruz County, CA (inclusive), and the drainages of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays eastward to the Napa R. (inclusive), Napa County, CA, excluding the Sacramento-San Joaquin R. Basin of the Central Valley of CA.	T	638	NA	NA
Do .....	.....do .....	.....do	All naturally spawned populations (and their progeny) in streams from the Pajaro R. (inclusive), located in Santa Cruz County, CA, to (but not including) the Santa Maria R.	T	638	NA	NA

Species		Historic range	Vertebrate population where endangered or threatened	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Common name	Scientific name						
Do .....	.....do .....	.....do	All naturally spawned populations (and their progeny) in streams in the Snake R. Basin of southeast WA, northeast OR, and ID.	T	638	NA	NA
Do .....	.....do .....	.....do	All naturally spawned populations (and their progeny) in streams and tributaries to the Columbia R. between the Cowlitz and Wind Rivers, WA, inclusive, and the Willamette and Hood Rivers, OR, inclusive, excluding the Upper Willamette River Basin above Willamette Falls and excluding the Little and Big White Salmon Rivers in WA.	T	638	NA	NA
Do .....	.....do .....	.....do	All naturally spawned populations (and their progeny) in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries, excluding San Francisco and San Pablo Bays and their tributaries.	T	638	NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Dated: May 11, 1998.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 980318066-8066-01; I.D. 061198B]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Commercial Cod Harvest

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Reduction of cod landing limit.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notification to announce that the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has projected that 892 metric tons (mt) of the target total allowable catch (TAC) for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod stock will be harvested as of 2400 hrs, local time, June 24, 1998, and that vessels fishing under a non-exempt multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) may not possess more than 400 lb (181.4 kg) of cod per DAS for any trip ending on or after 0001 hrs, local time, June 25, 1998.

DATES: Effective 0001 hrs, local time, June 25, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan A. Murphy, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations implementing Framework Adjustment 25 (63 FR 15326, March 31, 1998) became effective May 1, 1998. To ensure that GOM cod landings remain within the target TAC of 1,783 mt established for the 1998 fishing year, Framework 25 provides a mechanism to reduce the 700-lb (317.5-kg) per DAS landing limit to as low as 400-lb (181.4-kg) per DAS, based on the rate of catch and the risk of exceeding the target TAC. Section 648.86(b)(1)(i) specifies that this mechanism is triggered when the Regional Administrator has projected that 892 mt will be harvested. Further, this section stipulates that NMFS will publish notification in the