

of three Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) submitted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Lummi Nation, the Nooksack Tribe, the Stillaguamish Tribes, and the Tulalip Tribes pursuant to the protective regulations promulgated for Pacific salmon and steelhead under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The HGMPs specify the propagation of early-returning ("early") winter steelhead in the Dungeness, Nooksack, and Stillaguamish River watersheds of Washington State. The availability of a draft environmental assessment (EA), evaluating the anticipated effects of NMFS' proposed determination on those HGMPs pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), was included in the announcement. The announcement opened a 30-day public comment period. Due to an issue with one of the email addresses provided for receipt of comments, comments submitted to [EWSteelheadHatcheries.wcr@noaa.gov](mailto:EWSteelheadHatcheries.wcr@noaa.gov) prior to April 14, 2015, may not have been received. Therefore, NMFS requests that any such comments be re-submitted. NMFS is extending the comment period to May 4, 2015, to facilitate this re-submittal.

**DATES:** Comment period of the notice published at 80 FR 15984, March 26, 2015, is extended. Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on May 4, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the proposed evaluation and draft EA should be addressed to the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 510 Desmond Dr., Suite 103, Lacey, WA 98503, or faxed to (360) 753-9517. Comments may be submitted by email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is: [EWSteelheadHatcheries.wcr@noaa.gov](mailto:EWSteelheadHatcheries.wcr@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the email comment the following identifier: Comments on Early Winter Steelhead Hatchery Programs. When commenting on the draft environmental assessment, please refer to the specific page number and line number of the subject of your comment. The Secretary's proposed evaluation of effects on listed steelhead and salmon and the draft EA are also available on the Internet at [www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov). Comments received will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by calling (503) 230-5418.

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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Species Covered in This Notice

###### *ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice*

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

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

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): threatened, naturally produced and artificially propagated Hood Canal summer-run.

Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*): threatened Puget Sound/Washington Coast.

The WDFW, with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Lummi Nation, the Nooksack Tribe, the Stillaguamish Tribes, and the Tulalip Tribes as the *U.S. v. Washington* salmon resource co-managers, has submitted to NMFS plans for three jointly operated hatchery programs in the Dungeness, Nooksack, and Stillaguamish River basins. The plans were submitted in July 2014, pursuant to limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule for the listed Puget Sound Steelhead distinct population segment (DPS), and the listed Puget Sound Chinook Salmon and listed Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon evolutionarily significant units (ESU). The hatchery programs would release early winter steelhead that are not included as part of the ESA-listed Puget Sound Steelhead Distinct Population Segment into the Dungeness River, Nooksack River, and Stillaguamish River watersheds. All three programs would release fish that are not native to the watersheds.

Consideration of these three HGMPs, particularly pursuant to NEPA, is not being conducted as a substitute for the withdrawn Puget Sound Draft Environmental Impact Statement (80 FR 15986, March 26, 2015).

As specified in the July 10, 2000, ESA 4(d) rule for salmon and steelhead (65 FR 42422) and updated June 28, 2005 (70 FR 37160), NMFS may approve an HGMP if it meets criteria set forth in 50 CFR 223.203(b)(5)(i)(A) through (K). Prior to final approval of an HGMP, NMFS must publish notification announcing its availability for public review and comment.

##### 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).

We also issue this notice in accordance with the requirements of NEPA as amended (42 U.S.C 4371 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR part 1500 and 1506.6), and other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of NMFS for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: April 20, 2015.

**Angela Somma,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD905

#### Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Pelagics Plan Team (PPT) and a joint meeting of the Hawaii Members of the PPT, Advisory Panel (AP), Non-Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (NCFAC) and Fishing Industry Advisory Panel (FIAP), in Honolulu, HI, to discuss fishery issues and develop recommendations for future management.

**DATES:** The meeting of the PPT will be held May 12-13 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The joint meeting of the Hawaii Members of the PPT, AP, NCFAC and FIAP will be held on May 14, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Council Office Conference Room,

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Schedule and Agenda for the PPT Meeting**

*Wednesday, May 12, 2015, 8:30 a.m.*

1. Introduction
2. Annual Report Review
  - A. Review 2014 Annual Report Modules and Recommendations
    - i. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
    - ii. American Samoa
    - iii. Guam
    - iv. Hawaii
    - v. International
  - B. 2014 Annual Report Region Wide Recommendations

*Thursday, May 13, 2015, 8:30 a.m.*

3. Skipjack Range Contraction
4. Update on Council Actions
5. Purse Seine and Longline Meetings
6. Stock Status Determination Criteria
7. Other Business
8. Public Comment
9. Pelagic Plan Team Recommendations

**Schedule and Agenda for the Joint Meeting of the Hawaii Members of the PPT, AP, NCFAC and FIAP**

*Thursday, May 14, 2015, 9 a.m.*

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minimum Size for Hawaii Yellowfin Tuna
  - A. Yield per Recruit
  - B. Socio-economic Studies
  - C. Discussion
4. Cross Seamount Fishery
  - A. Contemporary Synopsis of the Cross Seamount Area Fishery
  - B. Discussion
5. Marine Mammal Depredation
  - A. Marine Mammal Depredation Reports in the Hawaii Commercial Catch Reports
  - B. Discussion
6. Other Updates
  - A. Update on the Hawaii Electronic Logbook Report Project
  - B. Hawaii Green Turtle Delisting Petition Response and Proposed Rule
  - C. Humpback Whale Delisting Petition Response
  - D. Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Draft Management Plan
  - E. Discussion
7. Other Issues
8. Public Comment

**9. Discussion and Recommendations**

The order in which the agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issue arising after publication of this document that requires 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 final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 21, 2015.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2015-09586 Filed 4-23-15; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XD912**

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Plan Development Team and Advisory Panel 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 meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

**Meeting address:** The meeting will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, 55 Jefferson Park Road, Warwick, RI 02888; telephone: (401) 467-6900; fax: (401) 467-2666.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Recipients of recent Scallop RSA awards will provide a status update and summary of preliminary findings to the Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) and Advisory Panel (AP). Presentations will include RSA projects that have not yet been used directly in the scallop management process. This meeting is *not* a formal review of the methods or results of these projects. Instead, this meeting is only an overview to better inform the PDT and AP of current research status and help identify future research priority recommendations. Other issues may be discussed, time permitting.

**Special Accommodations**

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

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

Dated: April 21, 2015.

**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-XD904**

**Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Highly Migratory Species Management Team will hold a meeting, which is open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 13 to Friday, May 15,