

document as background material for this meeting. Copies are available upon request to Mr. James Britell at (202) 366-5678 or fax at (202) 366-7237.

NHTSA is interested in obtaining information from the public about how the agency, and the private sector, can best move forward over the next two to five years to foster, or possibly require, the implementation of additional technological improvements in heavy trucks and intercity and transit buses. The agency's strategic research plan identified a number of broad subject areas where technological opportunities exist for safety enhancement, including:

- * Advanced technology electronics-based collision avoidance systems
- * Driver/vehicle interaction, ergonomics/human factors
- * Braking performance
- * Vehicle dynamic stability/control/handling

* Truck occupant protection and inter-vehicle collision aggressivity reduction. Commenters and participants are encouraged to focus on these topics, or others if they deem it appropriate, when preparing their suggestions and comments.

Among other things, NHTSA is holding this meeting to help assess how best to proceed with resource allocation and prioritization (both public and private sector), agenda setting (both research and regulatory), and other activities for improving the safety performance of heavy trucks and intercity and transit buses. The agency hopes to obtain information from the public, including private and commercial drivers, product suppliers, motor vehicle and trailer manufacturers, vehicle and traffic safety organizations, consumer groups, and others. This information will help NHTSA focus its rulemakings and other actions.

NHTSA will entertain suggestions for rulemakings, research, and other activities that the agency should undertake. Suggestions for agency action should be accompanied by a rationale for the action and the expected benefits and other consequences.

Procedural Matters

The public meeting will begin at 10:00 am on October 17, 1996, and is scheduled to conclude at 4:00 pm. It will take place on the day following the close of the SAE's Annual Truck and Bus Meeting and Exposition. The location will be the Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan. Persons wishing to speak at the public meeting should contact Darlene Curtin by the indicated date, and must include requests for audio-visual aids. Those

speaking at the public meeting should limit their presentations to 15 minutes. If a presentation will include slides, motion pictures, or other visual aids, the presenters should bring at least one copy to the meeting for submission to NHTSA, so that NHTSA can readily include the material in the public record. At the meeting, NHTSA staff may ask questions of any speaker, and any participant may submit written questions for the NHTSA staff. NHTSA may, at its discretion, address the latter to other meeting participants. There will be no opportunity for participants directly to question each other. If time permits, persons who have not requested time, but would like to make a statement, will be afforded an opportunity to do so.

A schedule of participants making oral presentations will be available at the designated meeting room. A copy of any written statements provided to NHTSA at the meeting will be placed in the docket relating to this notice. A verbatim transcript of the meeting will be prepared and placed in the NHTSA docket as soon as possible after the meeting.

Participation in the meeting is not a prerequisite for the submission of written comments. NHTSA invites written comments from all interested parties. It is requested but not required that 10 copies be submitted.

NHTSA will continue to file relevant information in the docket as it becomes available after the closing date. It is therefore recommended that interested persons continue to examine the docket for new material.

Issued: August 22, 1996.

Barry Felrice,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 227 and 425

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17 and 425

Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of Public Meetings, Public Hearings and Extension of Comment Period on Proposed Threatened Status for a Distinct Population Segment of Anadromous Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo Salar*) in Seven Maine Rivers

AGENCIES: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce; and Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Reopening of public comment period and announcement of public meetings and hearings.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, collectively the Services, give notice that the public comment period has been reopened in regards to the proposed threatened status designation for a distinct population segment of anadromous Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo Salar*) in the Sheepscot, Ducktrap, Narraguagus, Pleasant, Machias, East Machias, and Dennys Rivers in Maine. There will be three public meetings to present information and answer questions, followed immediately by more formal public hearings to accept verbal and written comments about the designation of this population segment as threatened. The comment period is reopened for a period of 45 days.

DATES: The combined public meeting and hearings will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on September 17, Augusta, Maine; from 7 to 10 p.m. on September 18, Ellsworth, Maine; and from 7 to 10 p.m. on September 19, Machias, Maine. All scientific data and comments must be submitted to the Services by October 11, 1996.

ADDRESSES: *Comments:* Please send any written comments to Paul Nickerson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035, or Mary Colligan, National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930.

Public Meetings and Hearings:

1. Cushnoc Room, Augusta Civic Center, Community Drive, Augusta, Maine.

2. Ellsworth Middle School, 20 Forrest Avenue, Ellsworth, Maine.

3. Science 102, University of Maine—Machias, 9 O'Brien Avenue, Machias, Maine.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Nickerson at (413) 253-8615 or Mary Colligan at (508) 281-9116.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Endangered Species Act requires that a public hearing be held on proposed regulations if requested within 45 days of the proposal's publication in the Federal Register. On September 29, 1995 (60 FR 50530), the Services published a proposed rule to list the DPS of Atlantic salmon as threatened. Public hearing requests were received during the allotted time period. The public comment period for this proposed action officially closed on December 28, 1995. Due to federal furloughs and legislative and funding restrictions imposed, the Departments of Commerce and Interior were not able to hold the requested public hearings during the original comment period.

On April 26, 1996, the President waived the moratorium on ESA listing actions, as authorized by the FY 96 Omnibus Appropriations Act for both the Departments of Commerce and Interior. The Services may now proceed with previously pending listing actions. Consequently we are now reopening the comment period on this proposed rule and announcing public hearings. The proposed rule published in September, included a special 4(d) provision that allowed the state of Maine the opportunity to develop a conservation plan for the species. Following publication of the proposed rule the Governor of Maine issued an Executive Order creating a task force to draft the conservation plan. That task force has been actively working on the plan since October, 1995. Separate hearings will be held by state officials on the conservation plan in early September.

During this comment period the Services desire any scientific and commercial data that may have become available since closure of the previous comment period on December 28, 1995. The Services final determination whether to list the DPS of Atlantic salmon will consider all comments received during this and earlier comment periods and may result in final regulations that differ from the proposal of September 29, 1995.

In response to the request for public hearings, the Services have scheduled three combined public meetings and hearings. The meetings will run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. and will be followed by a 15 minute intermission. During the public meeting, the Services will make a brief presentation and will informally answer questions about the proposal; state officials will also make a brief presentation on the status of the conversation plan and informally answer questions about the plan. The meeting will not be recorded and will not be part of the formal record.

The public hearings, which will begin at 8:30 p.m., will provide an opportunity for interested individuals to enter formal statements on the proposal, which will become part of the administrative record. Those parties wishing to make statements should present them to the Services at the start of the hearing. Oral statements must be limited to five minutes in length, however, there is no limit to the length of written comments or materials. Oral and written statements receive equal consideration during deliberations. Written comments may now be submitted through October 11, 1996 to either of the offices in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Author

The primary authors of this notice are Mary Colligan and Paul Nickerson (addresses are above).

Authority: The authority for this section is the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544).

Dated: August 14, 1996.

Ralph C. Pisapia,
Acting Regional Director, Region 5.

Dated: August 22, 1996.

Rennie S. Holt,
Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources.
[FR Doc. 96-21505 Filed 8-26-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D. 081696B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Reallocation of Pacific Cod

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

ACTION: Reallocation; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to reallocate the projected unused amount of Pacific cod from vessels using trawl gear to vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI) and is inviting comments. The proposed action is necessary to allow the 1996 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific cod to be harvested. It is intended to promote the goals and objectives of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

DATES: Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., Alaska local time, September 5, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, or delivered to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Room 453, Juneau, AK Attn: Lori Gravel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew N. Smoker, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) prepared by the Council under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that vessels using trawl gear will not be able to harvest 15,000 metric tons (mt) of Pacific cod allocated to those vessels under § 679.20(a)(7)(i)(A).

As of July 27, 1996, NMFS estimates 47,540 mt remain in the trawl gear share of the 1996 Pacific cod TAC and projects that trawl gear will take 32,540 mt during the remainder of 1996.

Trawl fisheries that will take Pacific cod include the directed Pacific cod, yellowfin sole, pollock, and rockfish fishery. NMFS closed directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI effective June 23, 1996, until October 25, 1996, to prevent exceeding the first seasonal bycatch allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to the trawl Pacific cod fishery category in the BSAI. The directed fishery for Pacific cod with trawl gear will open October 25, 1996. One hundred eighty nine mt of prohibited species bycatch allowance of halibut mortality remain in