

Availability of Documents

Copies of the draft annual report on implementation of the Conservation Plan may be obtained from the individuals identified under the preceding **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** heading.

Background Information

On December 18, 1997, the Services withdrew a proposed rule to list a distinct population segment (DPS) of Atlantic salmon in seven Maine Rivers as "threatened" under the ESA (62 FR 66325). In reaching the determination, the Services considered the status of the Atlantic salmon in the seven Maine Rivers. This evaluation took into account the efforts being made to protect the species, the extent of implementation of the Conservation Plan, private and Federal efforts to restore the species, and international efforts to control ocean harvest through the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization. The Services determined that ongoing actions, including those identified in the Conservation Plan, substantially reduced threats to the species and that these ongoing actions would rehabilitate the seven rivers DPS. Based on this analysis, the Services determined that the seven rivers DPS of Atlantic salmon was not likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, and, therefore, listing under the ESA was not warranted. In addition, the Services renamed the seven rivers DPS the "Gulf of Maine DPS" in recognition of the possibility that other populations of Atlantic salmon could be added to the DPS in the future. The Services stated that other populations of Atlantic salmon would be added if they were found to be naturally reproducing and to have historical river-specific characteristics. The area within which populations of Atlantic salmon would be most likely to meet the criteria for inclusion was identified as ranging from the Kennebec River north to, but not including, the St. Croix River.

In the withdrawal notice, the Services committed to making the annual report on Conservation Plan implementation available for review to the public in order to keep interested parties informed and to provide an opportunity for review and comment. The NMFS retained the Gulf of Maine DPS of Atlantic salmon on its list of candidate species, and the Services committed to maintaining oversight over the species under the ESA. Specifically, the Services stated that the process for listing the Gulf of Maine DPS would be reinitiated if (1) an emergency which poses a significant risk to the well-being

of the Gulf of Maine DPS is identified and not immediately and adequately addressed, (2) the biological status of the Gulf of Maine DPS is such that the DPS is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, or (3) the biological status of the Gulf of Maine DPS is such that the DPS is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Further, the notice stated that the circumstances described under (1), (2), and (3) could be the result of insufficient progress in implementation of the Conservation Plan; a failure to modify the Conservation Plan to address new threats or an increase in the severity of threats; a failure to modify the Conservation Plan, if necessary, to address threats facing any other populations added to the Gulf of Maine DPS in the future; or the inability of the State of Maine to address threats. The notice stated that a decision to reinitiate the listing process would be made shortly after the end of an annual reporting period.

The annual review of the Conservation Plan is part of the Services' broader comprehensive review of the species' status relative to the ESA. In determining whether a species is threatened or endangered, the Services examine the effect of five factors on the species' status. These five factors are: (1) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range; (2) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (3) disease or predation; (4) inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or (5) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

In order to assist the Services in their review, specific information is requested on how these threats may have changed in severity since December, 1997. The Services are requesting specific suggestions for appropriate modifications to the Conservation Plan and request that those suggestions be accompanied with justification as to how the proposed actions benefit Atlantic salmon. In addition to the draft annual report on the Conservation Plan, comments are requested on the adequacy of the other protective measures in place for Atlantic salmon and whether these measures remain adequate to protect the species in light of current knowledge. The principal other protective measures include the river-specific hatchery stocking program and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) ocean harvest agreements. All comments received, including names

and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be made available to the public.

The Services will review all comments on the draft annual report submitted by the public and provide a summary of those, along with their own comments, to the State of Maine in early March, shortly after the close of the comment period. The Services have requested a final annual report from the State of Maine by March 31, 1999. By April 30, 1999, the Services will update the 1995 Atlantic salmon status review. If that update indicates that the species is now in danger of extinction or likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, the Services will promptly issue a proposed listing under the ESA.

Dated: January 14, 1999.

Ann D. Terbush,

Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Dated: January 12, 1999.

Gerry A. Jackson,

Assistant Director - Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-1228 Filed 1-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation"), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Corporation is soliciting comments concerning its new Performance Standards Assessment Form. This form will be used by the Corporation to determine the adequacy and quality of state commission administrative systems.

Copies of the proposed information collection form can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this notice.

The Corporation is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Corporation, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Propose ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Propose ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section March 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of the Department of Evaluation and Effective Practices, Attn. William Bentley, 9th Floor, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20525.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John R. Dill (202) 606-5000, ext. 292.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Performance Standards Assessment Form was developed in consultation with State Commissions. State Commissions collectively asked for clearly stated performance standards by which the Corporation would assess the adequacy of their administrative systems. Indicators of both competency and excellence were developed for each performance standard. A process is being developed for using these Performance Standards for both self and external assessment purposes.

The Corporation seeks approval of its new Performance Standards Assessment Form. The information that is collected will help the Corporation determine the extent to which each State Commission has in place the administrative systems for effective operation. The form will be used for both self and external assessments of grantees. Assessment results will be used by grantees for continuous improvement and by the

Corporation for guiding training and technical assistance resources, determining appropriate levels of grantee oversight, and determining eligibility for access to competitive funding and multi-year administrative awards.

Type of Review: New approval.

Agency: Corporation for National and Community Service.

Title: Performance Standards Assessment Form.

OMB Number: None.

Agency Number: None.

Affected Public: State Commissions of the Corporation for National Service.

Total Respondents: 40 State Commissions.

Frequency: 14 State Commissions Annually.

Average Time Per Response: 340 hours per State Commission.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 4760 hours per 14 State Commissions.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): None.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): None.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 14, 1999.

Thomas L. Bryant,

Acting General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 99-1235 Filed 1-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050-28-U

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Wage Committee; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of Pub. L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that closed meetings of the Department of Defense Wage Committee will be held on February 2, 1999, February 9, 1999, February 16, 1999, and February 23, 1999, at 10 a.m. in Room A105, The Nash Building, 1400 Key Boulevard, Rosslyn, Virginia.

Under the provisions of section 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, the Department of Defense has determined that the meetings meet the criteria to close meetings to the public because the matters to be considered are related to internal rules and practices of the Department of Defense and the detailed wage data to be considered were obtained from officials of private

establishments with a guarantee that the data will be held in confidence.

However, members of the public who may wish to do so are invited to submit material in writing to the chairman concerning matters believed to be deserving of the Committee's attention.

Additional information concerning the meetings may be obtained by writing to the Chairman, Department of Defense Wage Committee, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000.

Dated: January 13, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 99-1153 Filed 1-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Notice of Commission Meeting and Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Delaware River Basin Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 27, 1999. The hearing will be part of the Commission's regular business meeting which is open to the public and scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Goddard Conference Room of the Commission's offices at 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, New Jersey.

An informal conference among the Commissioners and staff will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the same location and will include discussions of drought status; 1999 DRBC meeting schedule; Phase 1 TMDLs for the Delaware Estuary and a Flow Management Technical Advisory Committee status report.

In addition to the subjects summarized below which are scheduled for public hearing at the business meeting, the Commission will also address the following: Minutes of the December 9, 1998 and January 5, 1999 business meetings; announcements; report on Basin hydrologic conditions; reports by the Executive Director and General Counsel; and public dialogue.

The subjects of the hearing will be as follows:

Applications for Approval of the Following Projects Pursuant to Article 10.3, Article 11 and/or Section 3.8 of the Compact:

1. *Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission D-80-32 CP RENEWAL 2.* An application for the renewal of a ground water withdrawal project to supply up to 20.7 million gallons (mg)/30 days of water to the applicant's Pleasant Mount Fish Cultural Station from Well Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Commission