

Council consideration as appropriate.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: March 28, 2019.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06340 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG903

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, April 19, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. Details on the proposed agenda, connection information, and briefing materials will be posted at the MAFMC's website: www.mafmc.org.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to develop a fishery performance report by the Council's Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Advisory Panel. In addition, the Advisory Panel will be asked to provide feedback on the development of the Council's 2020-24 strategic plan, after reviewing the results of a recent strategic planning stakeholder survey. An agenda and background documents

will be posted at the Council's website (www.mafmc.org) prior to the meeting.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 28, 2019.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06339 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG917

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received seven plans for hatchery operations rearing and releasing Chinook salmon and summer steelhead hatchery programs rearing salmon and steelhead in the Upper Columbia River Basin. The plans describe programs operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Douglas Public Utility District (PUD). The programs are funded by the Douglas PUD, Chelan PUD, Grant PUD, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR). This document serves to notify the public of the availability of these materials, including the draft EA, for review and comment prior to a decision by NMFS on approval of the plan and issuance of the permits.

DATES: Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific time on May 2, 2019. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Written responses to the addendum should be addressed to the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Portland, OR 97232. Comments may be submitted by email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is: Hatcheries.Public.Comment@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the email

comment the following identifier: Comments on Upper Columbia Hatchery programs approvals.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emi Kondo at (503) 736-4739 or by email at emi.kondo@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice

- Upper Columbia River Spring-run Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Endangered, naturally and artificially propagated
- Upper Columbia River Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened, naturally and artificially propagated

Background

Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Federal regulations prohibit the "taking" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The term "take" is defined under the ESA to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS may make exceptions to the take prohibitions in section 9 of the ESA for programs that are approved by NMFS under section 4(d) of the ESA.

The co-managers and funding agencies, including the PUDs, WDFW, USFWS, and USBOR, have submitted hatchery and genetic management plans (HGMP) to NMFS pursuant to sections 4(d), 10(a)(1)(A), and 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA for hatchery activities in the Upper Columbia River basin. For the programs considered under section 10, the HGMPs serve as permit applications.

The HGMPs describe actions involving hatchery activities (with associated monitoring and evaluation) in the Upper Columbia River basin. The programs are intended to contribute to the survival and recovery of Upper Columbia River Basin steelhead in the Upper Columbia River basin, and to responsibly enhance fishing opportunity on hatchery-origin summer/fall and fall Chinook salmon and steelhead returns.

Authority

NMFS will evaluate each application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 4(d) of the ESA, Limit 5, and sections 10(a)(1)(A) and 10(a)(1)(B) of ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met under the sections mentioned above, one HGMP will be approved for the purpose of carrying out the hatchery programs and the relevant section 10 permits will be issued. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 27, 2019.

Angela Somma,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06316 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG857

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Acting Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit application from the Coonamessett Farm Foundation contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This Exempted Fishing Permit would allow a participating party/charter fishing vessel to temporarily possess undersized black sea bass for tagging and biological sampling purposes. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 17, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* NMFS.GAR.EFP@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line "Comments on CFF Black Sea Bass Tagging EFP."
- *Mail:* Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on CFF Black Sea Bass Tagging EFP."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Ferrio, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9180, Cynthia.Ferrio@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) submitted a complete application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) on

February 27, 2019, to conduct fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. The EFP would authorize a participating vessel to temporarily possess undersize black sea bass while conducting tagging procedures and biological sampling. This research is designed to tag and release black sea bass to study movement patterns, habitat usage, and migratory cycles for up to the 2-year battery life of the telemetry tags.

If approved, this research would be conducted over the course of four 3-day long sampling trips in April and August of 2019 and 2020, for a total of 12 research fishing days. All fishing would be conducted using rod and reel gear on a contracted charter vessel in state and Federal waters off the coasts of Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The exact fishing locations would be determined by the vessel captain, but would be recorded via GPS.

All black sea bass caught on directed research trips under this EFP would be placed in a live well, and the length and sex of each individual would be recorded before tagging. Each black sea bass would then be tagged with an internal anchor spaghetti tag, allowed to recover from the procedure, assessed for barotrauma, and released back into the water using a pressure-activated recompression descending release device. All non-target species would be returned to the water as quickly as possible, and no catch would be retained for sale. CFF personnel would accompany all trips and oversee these research activities.

In addition to the spaghetti tags, 92 black sea bass are expected to be tagged with additional specialty tags/equipment through this project, with the type of specialized tag used and data gathered depending on the size and vigor of each fish. A total of 48 fish will receive acoustic transmitters to record temperature, 40 slightly larger fish (greater than 25 cm) will receive an additional archival tag that records temperature, depth, and conductivity, and four of the largest fish (greater than 46 cm) will be affixed with satellite tags. The satellite tags measure temperature, depth, light level, and geolocation.

CFF is requesting temporary exemptions from the recreational possession limit and minimum size possession restrictions in the Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan found at 50 CFR 648.145(a) and § 648.147(b) to sample and tag all black sea bass during these selected fishing trips. Funding for this research has been awarded under a NOAA Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Research grant (NA18NMF4570257).

If approved, CFF may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the study period. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: March 28, 2019.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06368 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG923

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Bluefish Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar with an audio-only connection option. Details on the proposed agenda, connection information, and briefing materials will be posted at the MAFMC's website: www.mafmc.org.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is for the Advisory Panel to provide feedback on the development of the Council's 2020-24 strategic plan, after reviewing the results of a recent strategic planning